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LD1209131388 [Editorial Report]

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn denounced the U.S. "uproar" against Iraq in an 11 September statement carried by INA, linking it with "stands of media that are influenced by Zionist schemes." The Iraqi military campaign against Kurdish rebels took only 2 days, he said, and no large or significant battles took place because the rebel forces were scattered and weakened by the loss of Iranian support. Some Kurds have already returned home, and "those who do not wish to return may suit themselves, so the issue will be over." Saddam Husayn also claimed that during the war with Iran, Iraq refused a U.S. offer to supply artillery and shells in return for one of Iraq's Soviet-made T-72 tanks.

A quarter of a million Iraqis demonstrated against the United States in Baghdad the same day, expressing the "wrath and indignation of the Iraqis, both Arabs and Kurds, over the disgraceful stand adopted by the American Knesset," INA reported. The first secretary at the U.S. Embassy received a protest memorandum presented by "the angry masses of Baghdad and the revolutionary and democratic parties of Kurdistan." The memorandum accused the U.S. "Knesset" of shedding "false tears over a handful of stray people who betrayed their homeland" while failing to denounce "the Zionists' crimes in Palestine." Large demonstrations against the "miserable" U.S. position were likewise held in the northern cities of Irbil and Al-Sulaymaniyah, INA reported.

Among other Iraqi reaction to the U.S. Senate's vote to impose economic sanctions, officials cited by INA claimed that pro-Zionist senators were "disturbed" by Iraq's "victory" over Iran and are therefore seeking to punish Iraq. Turkey has "confirmed" that Iraq did not use chemical weapons against the Kurdish rebels, the officials emphasized.

In this regard, a Turkish Foreign Ministry statement cited by Ankara radio 9 September held that there is "no evidence to confirm reports that there are people suffering from injuries caused by chemical weapons among those who have crossed into Turkey from Iraq." A Turkish official noted the same day that the number of refugees in Turkey was around 60,000, according to ANATOLIA. INA subsequently announced that 11,517 Kurdish citizens had returned across the border in accordance with the amnesty. The agency noted that the authorities are planning to allocate plots of land to house returnees.

Further Comment on Iraq, Kurds Issue

The Jordanian foreign minister denounced the "suspect campaign" waged against Iraq, noting that the latter "categorically denied" using chemical weapons against "Kurdish rebels," Amman radio revealed. An AL-RA'Y columnist commented on the U.S. Senate vote condemning Iraq, calling it part of a campaign to "bolster the intransigent Iranian stand" at the Geneva peace talks.

In contrast, the Israeli Foreign Ministry announced that it is "alarmed" by Iraq's use of chemical weapons against its Kurdish population, Jerusalem radio reported.

Iran

Reportage on Geneva Talks—Iraq's "procrastination" and insistence on its "irrelevant and untimely" preconditions "completely blocked" progress at the 11 September plenary session between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers, IRNA reported. Iraq has rejected a UN "compromise formula" and has ignored Iranian "flexibility" over the question of freedom of navigation in the Gulf, the agency added. IRNA also contended that Iraq's opposition to moving the talks to New York is evidence of its desire to "undermine" the role of the UN secretary general. In Tehran, Iran's UN ambassador briefed President 'Ali Khamene'i on the latest developments in the talks, IRNA noted, and the acting foreign minister told the Soviet ambassador that Iraq is raising "absurd" preconditions.

Relations With Oman—"International regulations" should be observed in the Strait of Hormuz and a "coordinated regional effort" made to clear the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, according to the visiting Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, whose meetings with government officials were reported by IRNA. The Omani minister termed his visit "fruitful" and added that the countries on the southern coast of the Gulf are prepared to expand relations with Iran "in various fields," Tehran radio added. In a commentary broadcast after the visit, the radio called on the GCC to "compensate for its previous behavior" by employing "resources and powers" to pressure Iraq into accepting a "lasting and just peace."

Majlis Meeting—Four cabinet ministers were criticized in a Majlis debate for "mismanagement" and administrative "shortcomings," Tehran radio and IRNA indicated. The debate focused on the ministers of the interior; IRGC; agriculture; post, telegraph, and telephone; and labor and social affairs, IRNA added. In an address to the Majlis deputies, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi termed it "a pity" that the nation's "selfless efforts" during the war years were being "explicitly criticized" for constituting a "hostile approach" to issues, the radio reported. He said any cabinet member who does not receive a vote of confidence from the Majlis "may not be replaced" because personnel selection during the reconstruction period "will take a considerable time."

Israel

Palestinian Talks—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said any negotiations with the PLO should be "considered inconceivable," Jerusalem radio announced. However, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told MA'ARIV that he is willing to negotiate with "any group of Palestinians" who denounce the "Palestinian covenant," accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338, renounce "violence and terrorism," and are "prepared" to negotiate with Israel. He added that he is "not demanding recognition" of Israel as a precondition for talks.

Comments on Syria—Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, Armed Forces chief of staff, said in an interview with DAVAR that Syria should be wary of a possible Israeli "preemptive strike" if Israel feels itself on a "collision course" with Syria but he does not see such a strike as being "imminent." On the same issue, Rabin said Israel's capacity to hit the "Syrian rear" is "many times greater" than Syria's capability to strike Israel, according to THE JERUSALEM POST.

Allegations Against U.S.—The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv "monitors" civilian and military radio transmissions and telephone calls, a "foreign source close to the situation" stated to THE NATION. A U.S. State Department spokesman said he had "no information" regarding the allegations, the paper added.

Occupied Territories—Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, maintained that the IDF has apprehended the "entire formal organization" of the Gaza Strip uprising, Jerusalem radio announced. He said 200 members of the "infastructure of the popular committees" in Gaza have been detained but did not specify the dates of the operations. In Gaza, one man was killed and three wounded when a hand grenade was thrown at a group of local residents 10 September, the radio stated. Elsewhere in the occupied territories, the bodies of two "suspected collaborators" were found recently in Nabulus and Sinjil, the radio added. A Janin health worker was stabbed after being accused of collaborating; it was the fifth such case in a week, the radio noted. In Tulkarm, "dozens" of youths were arresed on suspicion of "rioting and inciting," Jerusalem television disclosed.

Southern Lebanon Operations—Four "armed terrorists" belonging to the Lebanese Communist Party were captured in the security zone after a brief firefight, an Army official told Jerusalem radio.

PLO Affairs

The PLO will declare a Palestinian state in the occupied territories 29 November, the anniversary of UN Resolution 181, "should opinion crystallize" in favor of such a declaration, according to Palestinian sources cited by Tunis radio. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told journalists in Abu Dhabi that the idea of a government-in-exile has been rejected because such a government can only be established by states that have "governments under occupation," WAKH disclosed.

PLO officials have been holding "secret contacts" in Paris with Israeli Labor Party representatives, mediated by an Arab Knesset member, Kuwait's AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM asserted.

Egypt

The crew and passengers of an Israeli yacht "detained" 9 September by authorities for "entering Egyptian territorial waters" south of Fir'awn Island were released after "necessary investigations," and a protest was lodged against Israel, according to a "responsible source" cited by MENA. The release of 15 Israelis and 15 tourists onboard the intercepted craft was arranged after the Egyptian foreign minister "intervened" at Israel's request, Jerusalem radio reported. An Egyptian gunboat "rammed" the yacht then towed it to a base at Coral Island, the radio added. Israeli Defense Minister Rabin said the incident "should not have happened" because of the peace treaty with Israel, the radio declared.

Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's visit and talks with President Husni Mubarak focused on bilateral relations and international issues of "mutual interest," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told MENA. Romania is "paying special attention" to the Middle East, the spokesman said, adding that the two countries' views on Lebanon are "very close."

Lebanon

Election—The speaker of the Chamber of Deputies called a presidential election session 22 September, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio announced. Husayn al-Husayni met with security officials to ensure the deputies' safety after four shells were fired at the parliament building 12 September, Beirut radio reported.

Hostages—Rudolf Cordes may be released "in the next 48 hours," according to an AL-NAHAR report cited by AFP. The "Mujahidin for Freedom" organization issued a communique instructing FRG and Syrian representatives about a possible release site and released a letter from Cordes stating that he would be freed 12 September, AFP added.

Nonaligned Movement Meeting

Participants in the Nonaligned Movement's (NAM) foreign ministers' meeting issued a "final declaration" that included a call for the United Nations to supervise the Israeli occupied territories and the establishment there of a "Palestinian state," Nicosia radio disclosed. The ministers called for the "enforcement of sanctions" against Israel, demanded the convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East, and recommended that the UN assume responsibility for the "security" of Palestinians in two Lebanese refugee camps, according to the radio and TANJUG. Other points in the declaration were condemnation of the RSA, support for UN peace efforts in Cyprus and the Iran-Iraq war, and the NAM's economic policy, the radio added.

Commenting on the declaration, a Lebanese delegate "expressed reservations" about the clause concerning Lebanon and said it would be regarded as "interference" in the country's internal affairs, Beirut radio stated.

Tunisia

Presidential and general elections "open to all persuasions" will be held 7 November 1989, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali announced in an interview with French media carried by Paris radio. Ben Ali spoke about the "possibility" of allowing the formation of an Islamic party and said the "status of women" in the country will not change, the radio added.

Pakistan

The acting governor of Sind Province resigned after the appointment of a provincial chief minister, Delhi radio revealed. Monitored Pakistani sources were not observed to report on the appointment or resignation but Islamabad radio stated that Sind Governor Rahimuddin Khan and Chief Minister Akhtar Ali Kazi addressed a "function" in Karachi 9 September.

The president appointed F.K. Bindial, a secretary of state, as special coordinator of the investigation into the airplane crash that killed former President Ziaul Haq, the radio announced. A "high-level investigation committee" was established to "improve liaison and ensure coordination" in the investigation, the radio added.

Bomb explosions in Peshawar on 10 and 11 September injured 15 and 5 persons respectively, Islamabad radio reported.

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement calling for a "special commission" comprised of representatives of the United Nations and the signatories of the Geneva accords to assess all claims of violations, Kabul radio stated. The spokesman denied Pakistani accusations of Afghan airspace violations and its claim to have downed an Afghan plane as "groundless and false." The Defense Ministry denied "Western media" claims that an Afghan military plane was downed over Pakistan 28 August, the radio asserted.

Ten persons were killed and more than 40 injured when a car bomb exploded in downtown Kabul 11 September, TASS and Kabul radio reported. After 99 days of fighting, rebels captured Spin Buldak in Qandahar Province, Islamabad radio announced. The Air Force carried out "carpet bombing" of the town, killing "some 500 people," according to rebel sources cited by AFP. In Farah Province, the mujahidin captured "several" security posts, Islamabad radio revealed. The Khayr Kot brigade's military headquarters in Paktia Province fell after a rebel "joint attack," the radio disclosed.

Soviet troops have returned to the capitals of Konduz, Qandahar, Ghazni, and Baghlan Provinces, according to Afghan rebel sources cited by XINHUA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syrian, Libyan Foreign Ministers Travel to Cyprus

LD0709004488 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The Syrian and Libyan foreign ministers left Algiers en route for Nicosia where the nonaligned ministerial conference opens tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Polisario Ready for Negotiations With Morocco

NC0809165088 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT
8 Sep 88

[Text] Nicosia, Sept 8 (AFP)—The Polisario Front is willing to have "direct negotiations" with Morocco to resolve the 13-year conflict over control of the Western Sahara, a senior member of the guerrilla movement said here Thursday.

Bachir Mustapha Sayed, head of the foreign relations department of the Front, said he expected a meeting of Moroccan and Polisario leaders to take place soon in the wake of "international pressure."

Sources close to his delegation said the movement's interior minister, Abdelkader Taleb Omar [title as received], met recently in Saudi Arabia with Hassan al-Mehdi, a Moroccan with close links to the royal family.

"Direct negotiations will help set the modalities for a cease-fire and fix its date," Mr Sayed told a news conference on the sidelines of a ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The Polisario Front, which is fighting for the independence of the Western Sahara, is present at the NAM conference as a non-voting observer.

Mr Sayed stressed that the withdrawal of Moroccan troops from the Western Sahara was a precondition to holding a referendum. Morocco sent its troops into the mineral-rich territory in 1975 as Spain began to withdraw.

Morocco and the Polisario Front agreed in principle on August 30 to a peace plan for the Western Sahara proposed by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, calling for a cease-fire followed by a U.N.-organised referendum on independence for the territory.

Mr Sayed said that the Polisario agreed to the U.N. peace initiative after both the U.N. chief and the acting president of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) promised to modify certain aspects of the initial peace proposals made by Morocco.

Morocco: 'No Need' for Direct Talks

NC0809183488 Paris AFP in English
1819 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Nicosia, Sept 8 (AFP)—The Polisario Front is ready for "direct negotiations" with Morocco to resolve the 13-year conflict over control of the Western Sahara, a senior member of the guerrilla movement said here Thursday.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, however, said his country saw no need for "face-to-face talks" with the Polisario "because everything has been worked out in its smallest detail."

The two sides agreed in principle on August 30 to a peace plan for the Western Sahara proposed by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The scheme calls for a ceasefire followed by a U.N.-organised referendum on independence for the territory. [passage omitted]

Mr. Filali said Mr. Perez de Cuellar was being assisted by the OAU in "putting in place all the necessary means and mechanisms" to prepare the terrain for a referendum.

Arab League Envoy on Candidates' 'Arab-Bashing'

LD0809213788 Kuwait KUNA in English
2004 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Washington, Sept 8 (KUNA)—The Arab League envoy to the U.S. Clovis Maksoud Thursday lashed out at the two U.S. presidential candidates, accused them of Arab-bashing and of pandering for the Jewish vote at the expense of the Arabs and Palestinian rights.

Speaking at a press conference here, the Arab diplomat said the latest statements by Republican Vice President George Bush and Democratic Candidate Michael Dukakis "went far beyond opportunistic requirements of electioneering in outbidding each other and in vying for Israeli favors at the expense of Palestinian rights, aspirations and reputation."

Maksoud's charges came less than 24 hours after both candidates addressed the Jewish B'nai B'rith organization, pledging full support for Israel and its security and rejecting Palestinians calls for self-determination and a homeland of their own.

In a strongly-worded statement, Maksoud said, "We strongly resent Palestinian and Arab-bashing at [words indistinct] they pledge their unequivocal, unconditional, and unquestioning support for Israel's reckless policies, expansionist objectives, racist practices and violations of international law and U.N. resolutions."

Specifically, the Arab League envoy criticized both candidates for not seeing it fit "to share the international outrage of Israel's ruthless and violent suppression of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

He said the positions of Bush and Dukakis "testifies to a double standard of moral judgement and to a crude and deliberate obliviousness to emerging realities unleashed by the (ten-month-old) Palestinian uprising."

The fact that both candidates, who differ on strongly [as received] every issue, should have a convergence of views on the Arab-Israeli conflict "demonstrates a dangerous lack of insight into the realities of the situation," Maksoud emphasized. He said Bush and Dukakis have also shown an unwillingness "To get out of the net which the Israeli lobby has weaved around their M.E. platforms and policies."

While the Arabs are keen to improve relations with the United States, he added, "this is not a blank check for the U.S. to enable Israel to (?mistreat) Arab security, perpetuate Israeli occupation, and supress Palestinian national right."

He added, "Mr Bush badly misreads Arab national priorities."

In one of his strongest statements to date, the Arab League envoy accused AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] of having written substantive parts of the speeches of the two candidates.

The opposition of the two presidential candidates to an independent Palestinian state is "irrelevant" at this stage, he emphasized, because the establishment of such a state has become an undeniable reality."

He also lashed out at Dukakis for describing the heroic (Palestinian) uprising as "violence in the territories" in the context of his stating "Israel faces new dangers."

Maksoud commented, "He (Dukakis) is either ignorant of what has and continues to take place in the occupied territories or he chooses to ignore them...in both cases, it is mind-boggling."

The Arab ambassador concluded, "We, the Arabs, expect presidential candidates to placate the Israeli lobby constitutency. The spectacle yesterday at the B'nai B'rith convention is, however, beyond comprehension besides being irresponsible."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Seeks Provisional Government

JN0909105488 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said the PLO will not form a government-in-exile but a provisional government because a government-in-exile cannot be established except by states that have governments under occupation. In a comprehensive statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published today, 'Arafat added that the PNC will present a number of options after the political and legal committee submits its preliminary report. He explained that there are intensive legal and political consultations with a number of Arab and international legal advisers in this regard. This is because such a decision cannot be taken separately without consultations with the Arab brothers and the world friends. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Said To Meet Resistance Leaders

JN1209102088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Sep (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will meet leaders from the Islamic Resistance Movement, HAMAS, from the occupied Arab territory in an Arab Gulf capital on 19 September. Citing informed Palestinian sources, the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD said the aim of the meeting is to achieve joint coordination between the Unified Leadership of the Uprising and HAMAS in the wake of the lack of coordination that appeared recently and which might have a negative effect on the escalation of the uprising against the Zionist occupation. The same sources expected that the meeting will result in HAMAS participation in the Unified Leadership of the Uprising.

PLO Leaders Meet in Tunis, View Developments

LD1209092288 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, 12 Sep (APS)—Informed Palestinian sources report that a meeting of Palestinian leaders began Sunday in Tunis attended by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman; secretaries of the Palestinian national movement; the PNC leadership and a number of other independent figures.

The same source says that in this meeting the Palestinian leadership will concentrate on the situation in the occupied territories, especially after Jordan's decision to drop administrative and [word indistinct] ties with the occupied Palestinian Bank.

The blessed uprising, which has begun its 10th month, will also attract the attention of the conferees, who will review ways to develop and support it. They will also discuss the agreement on a Palestinian option for the coming stage and the coming emergency PNC meeting.

Further on Meeting

LD1009085888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee began meeting yesterday in Tunis under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the organization, in order to follow-up developments in the Palestinian arena and to consider the political program for the following phase.

Palestinian sources said that the Executive Committee is still considering aspects concerning the declaration of a Palestinian state in accordance with the UN Participation Resolution No 181 of 1947. It expected that, should opinion crystallize around that, that the declaration of a Palestinian state will take place on 29 November 1988, which is the anniversary of that resolution. 'Arafat said that the PLO will not form a government-in-exile because such a government is only appropriate for states with a government under occupation. He announced that the Palestine National Council will convene at the beginning of next October in one of the following capitals: Algiers, Tunis, Baghdad or Tripoli.

'Official Sources' on Contents of PNC Report

NC1109072388 Cairo MENA in English 0640 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sep 11 (MENA)—Palestinian official sources said that the legal and political committee's report that will be presented to the Palestinian National Council in its extraordinary session to be held next month comprises a recommendation on the declaration of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with the partition resolution.

The report also includes a provisional government to run this state and a request to join the membership of the United Nations.

It recommends the choice of an Arab capital other than Tunis to be the headquarters of the temporary government and the preservation of the PLO as a liberation movement.

The sources told AL-ITTIHAD newspaper published in Abu Dhabi today that Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Palestinian National Council, was one of the prominent candidates to head figures inside and outside the occupied lands.

PLO, Israeli Labor Party Hold 'Secret Contacts'

JN1109201488 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 9 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Secret contacts between figures from the Israeli Labor Party and Palestinian officials have been under way in Paris. Arab Knesset member Muhammad Mi'ayri is playing the role of mediator between the Israeli party and the Palestinian officials.

The talks deal with PLO recognition of Resolution No. 242 in return for negotiations.

PFLP Officials Conclude USSR Talks

JN0909132488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash and the delegation accompanying him have concluded an official visit to Moscow. During the visit the PFLP delegation held talks with party and government officials, particularly Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration.

According to PFLP sources, topics discussed during the talks included Palestinian developments and the escalation of the uprising in the occupied territories in the direction of the declaration of general civil disobedience. The two sides also reaffirmed their condemnation of Israel's repressive measures, the policy of deportation and continued demographic destruction, and organized violation of human rights.

The PFLP delegation called for international protection for the Palestinian people through the temporary supervision of UN forces over the occupied territory and guaranteeing a just and lasting solution.

The Soviet side emphasized its continued support for the Palestinian people's struggle and uprising until the Palestinian people achieve their goals of self-determination and the establishemnt of an independent state under their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO.

PFLP-GC Attacks Israeli Positions in S. Lebanon

JN0809120788 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] A PFLP-GC military spokesman has stated the following: In response to the raid by the Zionist enemy against the heroic city of Qalqilyah at dawn yesterday, Zionist enemy positions in the eastern sector of the occupied belt in Lebanon were shelled this morning. A missile force belonging to the PFLP-GC shelled a Zionist enemy position in 'Ayn Qinya with nine 107mm missiles at 0730 this morning. This was followed by a second round of shelling at 0800 with 6 missiles of the same caliber. Following this, hostile armored movements and the evacuation of wounded were observed. The Zionist enemy admitted that one of its positions was hit. The army of renegade Lahd also admitted that one of its positions was hit. All our elements returned safely to base.

PFLP-GC Spokesman on Military Operation in Gaza

JN1009083188 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] A PFLP-GC military source has stated the following: On the occasion of our people's uprising entering its 10th month, in continuation of armed struggle on the path of liberating land and man, and out of our faithfulness to the martyrs of our people, who watered the Palestinian soil with their blood, PFLP-GC Gaza martyrs group-Al-Nawras forces attacked one of the Zionist enemy positions at Ashqelon junction in Gaza at dawn yesterday.

Members of the group threw seven firebombs at the Zionist barrier of Eriz damaging a Zionist Mircava tank and burning a jeep and a military tent. The attack injured five Zionist soldiers, including the commander of the position, a captain. They were moved to Ashqelon Hospital.

The flying attack on the Zionist position was carried out at 0240 on 7 September 1988. On the same date, an Israeli military spokesman admitted this operation, claiming that this is the first time this position has been attacked since it was erected in 1980. The Zionist enemy also admitted the courage and daring of the attackers, saying they were highly competent.

Abu Sharif Discusses Conference, Government

PM0909141388 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Sep 88 pp 32-33

[Interview with Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, by Diya' Hasan; place, date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: What stage has the uprising reached so far?

Abu Sharif: Our uprising in the occupied territories was only decided on after a series of factors accumulated over a period of 20 years. The decision was part of the confrontation battle against the occupation. Huge numbers of sons of our people have launched sweeping waves of resistance against occupation for 9 months, and this will continue. The Palestinian decision to engage in this battle against the occupation was not made just for the sake of entering a battle or aimlessly. We decided to enter the battle in order to achieve a specific objective, that is, eliminate the occupation of our Palestinian territory. The uprising will continue until our objective is achieved. [passage omitted]

True, we are seeking to establish our own independent state after the occupation is eliminated. The uprising is not a spontaneous process. True, it erupted as a result of a long revolutionary buildup, but it is not a spontaneous process. It is carefully planned and has phases. It has its conditions and circumstances. The current phase now being witnessed during the 9th month of the uprising is the phase of partial national disobedience. It will be followed by another phase, namely the phase of comprehensive national disobedience.

The partial national disobedience has its conditions and circumstances in view of the Jordanian Government's decision to sever links with the West Bank.

AL-HAWADITH: Was the matter discussed within PLO institutions?

Abu Sharif: The Palestinian Central Council meeting held in Baghdad when the decision was made referred the matter to a legal, political committee comprising representatives from resistance organizations and a large group of lawyers who are experienced in this field. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: On the basis of what you have said the PLO has endorsed the decision to establish a Palestinian state after the occupation is eliminated. Have new developments forced the PLO to consider the early formation of a provisional government?

Abu Sharif: In January numerous statements were made regarding the idea of establishing a Palestinian government.

AL-HAWADITH: Inside or outside [the occupied territories]?

Abu Sharif: Outside. And the issue was discussed at conferences held by more than one organization belonging to the PLO. The issue was also discussed within the PLO itself and was referred to a legal committee. Today, after the Jordanian decisions, even those who were opposed to the idea of forming a government now support its formation. For instance, [PFLP Secretary General] Dr George Habash announced in Damascus that he supports the formation of a government. [PLO Executive Committee Member] Abu 'Ali Mustafa announced at the Central Committee that he is for the formation of a government, although both were opposed to the idea in January.

I want to say that conditions, namely the continuing uprising, escalating Israeli repression, and Jordanian measures, have made the idea of forming a provisional government acceptable and essential, even to opponents.

AL-HAWADITH: A practical step?

Abu Sharif: And essential. As for the establishment of a state, I did not say that a state should be announced after the occupation is eliminated, I said to build a state rather than to establish a state. Circumstances do change, and rapidly. There is a revolutionary factor which is continuing, that is, the uprising factor and resistance against the occupation. There is also another counter factor which is also continuing, that is, Israeli repression. We are planning to seize our independence via struggle and resistance in the occupied territories as well as via political struggle. Certain developments may occur and force the PLO to consider the adoption of further steps regarding the declaration of national independence. But the idea proposed now is forming or working toward establishing a government. There is Palestinian consensus or semi-consensus over the need to form a Palestinian government to handle all issues concerning the occupied land.

AL-HAWADITH: With regard to the international conference, it is known that many ideas have been raised in this regard. There are ideas by some Arab states calling for a certain formula for the international conference. In view of recent developments, what formula does the PLO believe is suitable?

Abu Sharif: We want the international conference to be an effective framework for negotiations to secure a just solution. We want an effective international conference that is capable of providing guarantees for results agreed. Without any delusions, negotiations will be between Israel and the parties to the conflict, that is, the PLO, which is a main party to the conflict, which concerns Palestinian territory. The conference means negotiating with the Israelis, not phantoms. Israel will not negotiate with Lebanon, or Syria, or Egypt because if the problem was between the PLO and these states, it would not be resolved within the framework of an international conference, but rather within the Arab League. Negotiations mean to negotiate with the enemy, that is, Israel, that is, the Israeli Government, with those representing the Israelis. The political basis for the conference would be UN resolutions.

And as the conference will convene under UN auspices to secure a settlement, then the conference must be based on UN resolutions. UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict are well known, namely Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, adopted after the June 1967 defeat.

There are other resolutions relating to the national rights of the Palestinian people, not that we are against Resolution 242. So long as Resolution 242 talks of withdrawal, we support it. Let Israel withdraw. But we cannot accept Resolution 242 just like that without some additions, because it does not deal with the question concerning the national rights of the Palestinian people. We want the resolutions guaranteeing these rights to be added to Resolution 242 so that the question of withdrawal and legitimate national Palestinian rights will be settled, in the sense that the international conference secures a solution that stipulates the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their own state, together with guarantees for the security of all the states of the region, including Israel and the independent Palestinian state.

AL-HAWADITH: This leads us to the article you wrote, causing an uproar. You said no negotiations will be held with phantoms. Do you believe that the Palestinian climate is now actually prepared to accept such a position, I mean all Palestinians, that is, the PLO officially and all others?!

Abu Sharif: The political concept of the article I wrote as well as the limited political clauses I listed in that article were in line with PNC resolutions, regardless of the language and method of presentation used. The article spoke clearly and frankly regarding PNC resolutions, a political solution, the international conference, and what an international conference means. I believe that the response inside the occupied territories has been positive and semi-unanimous. This proves that what I wrote represented the views of the majority of the Palestinian people who are standing fast under the occupation. It also represents an opinion; what is it? Regardless of the language and introductions used, the opinion is as follows: We Palestinians seek to establish our independent state on the basis of the international legal basis provided by Resolution 181 (1948 partition resolution), which was rejected at the Palestinian level. It contains two clauses: Clause A and Clause B. At that time the United Nations decided to partition the territory of Palestine between two states. Part A of the resolution stipulates the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state. Part B stipulates the establishment of a state for the Jews. And if the international legal basis for establishing the state of Israel was part B of the resolution, so the resolution contains the international legal basis for a Palestinian state as well, as stipulated by Clause A. If the Israelis reject this, then they will be rejecting the international legal basis on which the state of Israel was established.

AL-HAWADITH: And what is the true position of the major countries?

Abu Sharif: The Soviet Union supports our legitimate national rights and firmly backs our right to self-determination and to establish our own independent state. The nonaligned states also support this. As do the OAU states, the Islamic state organization [as published], and some Latin American states. The debate which took place at the recent UN General Assembly session over the international conference clearly indicates that the PLO is receiving support from all the states of the world, except the United States, of course; it supports the enemy. [passage omitted]

Khalid al-Hasan on Forming Government

JN0909202488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1724 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Telephone interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, by Antoine Nawfal—recorded; date not given]

[Text] [Nawfal] Brother Khalid al-Hasan, the recent developments in the Palestinian arena, from the uprising to the Jordanian disengagement with the West Bank, indicate that the PLO is facing one of two options; either to form the provisional government, or to postpone this step once again. The two options result in big responsibilities. What is the direction followed by the organization?

[Al-Hasan] Actually, the organization considers the two options, with an inclination toward declaring independence and establishing a provisional government. However, the PNC legal committee under Dr Anis al-Qasim and the political committee study, as a joint committee, all that is related to the new stage and to the declaration of independence and the establishment of the government and its policy statement. It is expected that the committee will complete its work after concluding its current consultations which are being held on the level of experts in international law from all over the world within 1 week to 10 days. By that time, the intensive dialogue among all resistance faction leaders will have crystallized the [word indistinct] of the general political orientation. At that time, God willing, what will be agreed upon will be submitted to the Executive Committee, which in turn will submit to the PNC, which is the primary and sole legitimate authority of the Palestinian people which can issue such declarations and resolutions.

[Nawfal] In his speech in Strasbourg, will Mr Yasir 'Arafat indicate that he will adopt the option of a provisional government-in-exile?

[Al-Hasan] I do not believe that Mr Yasir 'Arafat will refer to that because this is the jurisdiction of the PNC. When Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] says something, all his remarks are based on the resolutions issued by the Palestinian executive and legitimate establishments. However, naturally, Brother Yasir 'Arafat realizes the Palestinian people's general political trend, especially that of the uprising people. At the same time, he realizes the general trend of international politics and of the upcoming detente [preceding word in English] stage. He also realizes the responsibilities resulting from the recent Jordanian measures which removed any suspicion about the issue of Palestinian representation, which used to constitute one of the obstacles before the convocation of an international conference. Jordan's measures solved this problem automatically. Henceforth, the United States or the Zionist occupation authorities cannot talk about a partner to the PLO regarding the Palestinian issue. Within the framework of realizing all these matters, the speech will include some points in this direction. There are points which have been previously approved, including the international law's interpretation of terrorism and distinction between it and the resisting of occupation, rejection of terrorism, international legitimacy, and the presence of two states in Palestine. These issues have been previously approved. Therefore, 'Arafat's position will stem from these points, which will be discussed by the PNC.

[Nawfal] Adopting the option of a provisional government means a trend toward negotiatiing the future of the Palestinian state. Consequently, the question of Resolution 242 could be posed once again. This time, it seems, you will concentrate on accepting this resolution despite its shortcomings more than you will concentrate on its content. What does this practically mean?

[Al-Hasan] Firstly, the declaration of independence and the establishment of a provisional government means going to the international conference as an independent state under occupation. This is politically significant regarding any positive results by the international conference to achieve peace. As for the other obstacle before going to the international conference, which is Resolution 242, the policy statement of the provisional government is supposed to tackle this issue in a manner, I hope, which will be accepted by world public opinion, and naturally, without any relinquishment. This is because the PLO did not reject any of the provisions of the UN Security Council resolution. As the PNC resolutions stipulate, the PLO does not reject Resolution 242 for what it contains, but rejects it for what it does not contain. Therefore, there must be a formula to reconcile both directions.

[Nawfal] Will Resolution No 242 be accepted publicly?

[Al-Hasan] I cannot accept this sentence as it is. Accepting Resolution No 242 will be linked with a long clause, containing the PLO's understanding of Resolution No 242 and how matters should be. I believe that the issue depends on the forthcoming formulations. Therefore, I cannot give you a final answer now.

[Nawfal] When you talk about the independent Palestinian state under occupation do you mean that the negotiations between you and Israel will be direct without any Arab supervision or participation?

[Al-Hasan] No one said there would be an Arab supervision or participation. Everyone says it would be supervised by the international conference. Therefore, the sides which participate in the international conference will attend the negotiations. Regarding the effectiveness of the international conference, I can say that it is being discussed between Moscow and Washington. I believe they made considerable progress in this regard.

[Nawfal] Do you believe that the PNC's forthcoming session will witness a consensus on the idea of the state and the government-in-exile despite some factions' opposition?

[Al-Hasan] I hope so. I would like to use the expression "The Declaration of National Independence" because such a declaration includes the establishment of a state. I believe this will win great support, or at least, win the support of the overwhelming majority.

[Nawfal] However, this will prompt a comprehensive review of some Arab regimes. Do you not fear that this will lead to more Arab differences, problems, opposition, and pressures?

[Al-Hasan] I do not believe there are differences between us and any other Arab country over this issue, except Syria.

[Nawfal] Can the differences with Syria be settled?
[Al-Hasan] I hope so.
[Nawfal] How do you view the current relations?

[Al-Hasan] As they are.

[Nawfal] They did not change?

[Al-Hasan] Not at all.

[Nawfal] Will Yasir 'Arafat meet with European political figures such as the French foreign minister when he goes to Strasbourg to deliver his speech?

[Al-Hasan] There will be European parliamentarian figures. There will also be EEC figures. Regarding the French foreign minister, I think that a meeting will take place. On this occasion, I can say it will not be the first meeting between him and Abu 'Ammar, who met him in Tunis.

[Nawfal] In fact, this is what the French foreign minister said in his statement to LE MONDE.

[Al-Hasan] It is true.

[Nawfal] Brother Al-Hasan, do you believe that the coming months will produce any results?

[Al-Hasan] I believe that the coming months will produce many results. They will result in a vigorous national unity in our occupied homeland. The uprising will continue on a studied base. At the same time, the political leadership will be able to cope with the requirements [words indistinct] the four points, foremost of which are the national independence and the withdrawal of the occupation authorities from territories occupied in 1967. Similarly, all of the Palestinian intellectuals and the organizations will face up to their responsibilities. Consequently, the forthcoming Palestinian PNC session will be historical in the history of the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian people's movement. The international community will also witness a new Palestinian militant situation. I believe the majority will welcome this. The problem of the United States and the Zionist entity will continue. But I believe that the two superpowers' talks and the pressure of world public opinion will overcome this obstacle to reach an international conference that should result in an independent Palestinian state.

[Nawfal] Does this mean that the PLO will face reality as it is?

[Al-Hasan] The PLO has always faced reality, and the PLO has always understood reality without surrendering to it. It also can define the possibilities of reality and choose the strongest one that is in line with the course of history. Fortunately, the PLO has not commited any mistake regarding its basic resolutions.

[Nawfal] Thanks brother Al-Hasan.

[Al-Hasan] Thanks.

Khalid al-Hasan on Jordan's Decision, PNC

JN0809113588 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Doha—Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the PNC's foreign affairs committee, has asserted that Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank has faced the world with a clear fact, namely that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In an interview published in Qatar today, Khalid al-Hasan said Egypt does not need to make a decision similar to the Jordanian decision.

Referring to the extraordinary PNC session Khalid al-Hasan said: The venue and date of the PNC meetings have not yet been fixed. He contended that the PNC has two options: To maintain the present situation, or to proclaim independence and a government.

Khalid al-Hasan added that the PLO Central Council has set up a legal and political committee to discuss the requirements of the new stage. He said the committee will submit a full report on its sessions, the meetings of the Palestinian leaders, and the consultations held by Palestinian delegations to Arab and Muslim states and friendly and allied states, to the PLO Executive Committee so that the report will be drafted in its final form and be referred to the PNC extraordinary session.

Khalid al-Hasan said the speech which PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will deliver to the European Parliament in September will be important and will attract the attention of world public opinion.

Egypt

Mubarak, Ceausescu Begin Talks

NC0909122388 Cairo MENA in English 1205 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 9—(MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and President Nicolac Ceausescu of Romania held a session of talks at Cairo International Airport today, that was attended on the Egyptian side by Premier Dr 'Atif Sidqi as well as other senior officials.

It was also attended by a number of Romanian officials accompanying the Romanian president during his stopover.

The two leaders resumed their talks during the luncheon given by President Mubarak in honour of the distinguished guest.

Ceausescu Departs

NC0909142388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife have left Cairo after a 2-hour stay. During the visit, Ceausescu held talks with President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz Comments

NC0909175288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu stopped over in Cairo today to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak. He pointed out that Romania is paying special attention to Middle East affairs, in addition to its interest in international and European issues.

Al-Baz said the two presidents discussed several issues, including bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in the economic and development fields, as well as international issues of mutual interest.

Al-Baz said it is natural that the talks should focus on Middle East issues, particularly the Palestinian question and the Gulf war, with special emphasis on the need to ensure that the cease-fire will develop into a lasting peace which benefits all the peoples of the Gulf region.

Dr al-Baz also said that the two presidents discussed the situation in Lebanon. He noted that their views were very close.

Al-Baz expressed the belief that the coming months will witness a revival of the peace process in the Middle East after the Israeli and U.S. elections. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Baz stressed that contacts must continue and that the Palestinian uprising must be turned into a motivating force for the Palestinians so that they can exercise their legitimate rights, particularly to self-determination, freedom, and the liberation of their land.

Al-Baz said we are working on various levels through direct communications among the concerned Arab countries to prepare for an international conference. He expresed the hope that this conference will be held next year. To achieve this, he said, we have to maintain the drive and try to get wider world support for Palestinian rights by gaining supporters within circles which have not endorsed the Palestinian cause.

Commenting on President Ceausescu's support for Egypt's stand on the Palestinian issue, Dr al-Baz said that all the countries with which Egypt has made contacts believe in the legitimacy of the Egyptian stand and its usefulness. These countries, he said, are convinced that Egypt is seeking to realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and to establish peace and stability in the region. He added that we are working very hard nad making contacts with the various parties concerned, including the Arab brothers, Israel, European countries, the Soviet Union, and the United States. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Baz believes that the Middle East issue cannot be solved through conformity of the wills of the two superpowers, because this is not in the interest of all. We want the two superpowers' agreement on settling the issue to be a supporting factor, provided that the parties directly concerned with the dispute shoulder their responsibility to pave the way for a settlement and then reach an agreement through negotiations in which all parties concerned can present their demands and suggestions, he said.

Dr al-Baz believes that the Arab right is a strong one and that a settlement providing for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and for granting the Palestinians the opportunity to handle their own affairs like other people can be reached within a reasonable time. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Baz contends that what is needed is a firm and strong challenge for Israel and for the United States to persuade Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory and recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination.

Al-Baz said that the Palestinian uprising is a positive factor because it demonstrates the Palestinians' absolute rejection of occupation, and because it is an enlightened uprising focusing primarily on the need to convince the Israelis that continuing the occupation is impossible and that settling the issue is inevitable. The Palestinians accept the principle of peaceful settlement and the problem now is to get the Israelis to realize that peaceful settlement is the only way, he added.

In this regard, Dr al-Baz expressed the belief that Israeli public opinion is moving in this direction. He noted that some present and former military officials in Israel support a settlement.

Dr al-Baz concluded that we want all these factors to lead in the near future to an agreement by which Israel commits itself to a withdrawal from the occupied territories, abandons its objection, and lets the Palestinians enjoy their right to self-determination. The Palestinians must also take a stand which determines Palestinian objectives in both the long and short runs.

Diplomatic Mission in Aden To Reopen 12 Sep

NC0909144588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1321 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—A Foreign Ministry delegation led by Minister Plenipotentiary 'Ali Hijazi left Cairo for Aden this afternoon. The delegation will study the necessary measures for reopening of Egypt's embassy in the PDRY on Monday [12 September]. It is worth noting that diplomatic ties between the two countries were reestablished last January.

In a predeparture statement, Ambassador Hijazi stated that he will take a message to PDRY Foreign minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

He said that all the members of the Egyptian diplomatic mission are accompanying him and will assume their jobs upon arrival in Aden. He added that he will act as charge d'affaires until a new Egyptian ambassador is appointed.

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Tabah, PLO, Gulf

NC0909152088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Tabah is Egyptian territory by all criteria. He said that until the verdict on this issue is announced, Egypt is willing to deal with all possibilities and keep an open mind in its actions, as long as these actions accord with Egyptian sovereignty and laws, respond to security requirements, and follow the line of Egypt's policies dictated by its Constitution.

In an interview with UKTUBAR magazine to be published after tomorrow, Sunday, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt will not abandon the principle of full Egyptian sovereignty over the Tabah region. He pointed out that the verdict on this issue is expected to be announced on 29 September.

Commenting on developments in the Palestinian issue, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is ready to give legal advice to the PLO in the coming stage. He stressed the need for the PLO to create a clear and internationally accepted political system and then to embark on the next step, which will present to the world the political form of the Palestinian presence.

He pointed out that the international acceptance of this form depends on the acceptance of the political program and orientation of the Palestinians.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid asserted that Egypt will accept the political form chosen by the Palestinian leadership.

On the post-war situation in the Gulf region, Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed Egypt's hope that direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran will arrive at a just, comprehensive, and peaceful settlement which would settle the dispute once and for all. He noted that Egypt is following these negotiations very closely, since they indirectly concern Egyptian prisoners in Iran.

He said that Egypt hopes the dispute will be resolved in the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 598 which is under negotiation, particularly since Iran has refrained from presenting a list of prisoners and details pertaining to them.

Commenting on Egyptian-Algerian relations, the Egyptian foreign minister stated that there had been attempts to reestablish relations with Algiers. However, he said, these attempts faced difficulties for reasons which have since become known. He noted Algiers' demand that the Egyptian foreign minister go to Algiers first, which Egypt rejected because the resumption of relations must not have preconditions.

As for Syria and Libya, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that they are both living in isolation from the rest of the Arab world because of their behavior, their relations with other Arab states, their stand on the Gulf war, and their constant attacks on Egypt, which Egypt rejects.

On the Arab League's role, Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that the League must avoid political blocs, give priority to the Arab people's interests, and try to create a cohesive Arab entity capable of dealing with the facts of the present age. He said that we must take the European Common Market experience as an example. He noted that in 1992, the EC will embark on a unified European market, in which there will be no restrictions on the movement of individuals and funds. In this way the EC will develop into an enormous European bloc embracing 350 million people of the highest technical and technological standards, he said.

Israeli Yacht Detained, Released 9 Sep

NC0909190388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—A responsible Egyptian source has stated that the Egyptian authorities this afternoon detained the Israeli yacht "Maya" for entering Egyptian territorial waters south of Fir'awn island.

The source declared that a protest had been lodged with the Israeli authorities over this violation. The source added that after the necessary investigations were carried out, the Israeli yacht and its crew and passengers were released at 1930 today.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Upcoming Reagan Meeting

NC1009054988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH describes the Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli meeting to be held in New York on 26 September as yet another proof of Egypt's status and its responsibility for establishing peace in the Middle East and maintaining the stability of this vital region.

In its 10 September edition, the newspaper says that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's forthcoming meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres aims at discussing the Middle East problem and reaffirming the U.S. commitment to promoting the peace process.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that although this invitation will not result in any definite commitment, as most observers believe, it has caused an uproar in Israel where Peres welcomed the meeting while Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir opposed it. The Likud bloc even described the invitation as U.S. bias in favor of the Labor Party and intervention in internal affairs on the eve of the Israeli elections.

The newspaper notes that Reagan has been actively supporting Vice President George Bush's bid for the presidency recently. This naturally means that should Bush become president, he will receive a vivid Middle East file, and thus it will be easy for him to set a new and early date for an international peace conference.

Reagan Invitation in Lame-Duck Period Assailed

NC1109060388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2144 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR asks why U.S. presidents exhibit such enthusiasm and interest in searching for a solution to the Middle East problem during their last months in the White House, after spending long years in Washington without caring to remove the dust from this problem that has been shelved for dozens of years.

In its Sunday editorial, AL-AKHBAR states that this phenomenon has recurred several times, the latest example of which was President Ronald Reagan's invitation to the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to meet with him in New York during the UN General Assembly session. The paper says that Reagan has spent almost 8 years in the White House and has only 4 months left, during which time the U.S. Administration and the two rival parties will devote their efforts to the presidential and congressional election campaigns. In these last 4 months the president and his administration become lame ducks, without the influence or power to implement any decisions they may make.

AL-AKHBAR expresses its conviction that there are increasing questions about this invitation, particularly now during the U.S. elections, because the Middle East issue is one of the cards that both rival parties play and because on these occasions there are periodic auctions to win the votes of the Jewish and Zionist groups. The paper goes on to express its hope that this meeting will nevertheless give a genuine boost toward peace and concludes by saying: We cannot give up the hope that the U.S. Administration is indeed serious in its efforts to achieve peace and a just settlement in the Middle East.

Mubarak To Seek Western Support for IMF Talks

NC1009065788 Cairo MENA in English 0520 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Egypt is seeking a fresh agreement on rescheduling its foreign debts and President Mubarak will hold intensive exchanges with the leaders of a number of Western nations including the United States to have them back Egypt in its current talks with the International Monetary Fund and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, reports AKHBAR AL-YAWM in its top billing and leading front-page story.

The newspaper says Egypt aims at concluding a second agreement with the IMF and IBRD on rescheduling Egypt's foreign debts now that the validity of the letter of intentions has run out.

The president will ask in the course of the exchanges with the leaders of the Western nations for additional assistance from the IMF.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM says these steps are within Egypt's total economic reform programme begun with the administration of President Mubarak which has achieved palpable progress in all fields of production.

President Mubarak will also discuss in his forthcoming exchanges boosting the Middle-East peace process. [passage omitted]

Debt Talks With IMF End 11 Sep

NC1109133588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1159 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Talks which were held between Egyptian Government officials and an IMF delegation led by IMF Deputy Meeting Director Paul Chabrier over the past 6 days ended today.

The IMF delegation will bring to Washington the Egyptian Government's proposals for a new letter of intent, which the IMF had demanded from Egypt. The letter is part of the procedure on the basis of which Egypt's debts maturing between July 1988 and July 1989 can be rescheduled. The proposals are to be discussed at a meeting of the IMF Executive Board in Washington later this month.

MENA has learned that an IMF delegation led by Dr 'Abd al-Shakur Sha'lan, executive director for the Middle East region, will arrive in Cairo in the first half of October to resume the talks and to give the Egyptian officials the IMF's response to the Egyptian proposals. There are still some differences of view between Egypt and the IMF, which will be discussed during Sha'lan's visit.

Meanwhile, Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid will visit Paris in late September to hold talks with representatives of the Paris Club, a grouping of Egypt's main creditors.

Makramallah Meets With World Bank Official

NC1109145488 Cairo MENA in English 1416 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 11—(MENA)—Minister of State for International Cooperation Dr Maurice Makramallah conferred today with director of the Middle East operations at the World Bank on the projects which the bank will finance in Egypt and which are included in the five year plan.

IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] delegation expressed satisfaction over the steps of the execution of the ventures at present carried out by the bank.

IBRD delegation arrived here on Thursday on a few days' visit.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Arrives, Speaks

NC1109095388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali arrived in Cairo this morning for a visit of several days.

In an arrival statement, he said he had brought a message from King Hasan II of Morocco for President Husni Mubarak and that he will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Filali disclosed that Morocco will hold consultations next week with the UN secretary general on conducting a referendum in the Western Sahara. He noted that the nonaligned foreign ministers have asserted the Palestinian people's rights and said that the Arab countries should work to give an impetus to the peace process in the region.

Talks With 'Abd al-Majid

NC1109141188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—A round of Egyptian-Moroccan talks was held today. The talks were led by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister, and Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali.

Recent developments in the Middle East and Africa, the discussions at the nonaligned conference in Nicosia, as well as bilateral ties, were examined during the talks.

Following the session, Dr 'Abd al-Majid hailed the strong ties between Egypt and Morocco. He added that during the session views were exchanged on several issues of common concern. 'Abd al-Majid noted that he will hold further talks with Filali in New York, where they will both attend meetings of the UN General Assembly.

For his part, Filali said that today's talks took place within the framework of cohesive and strong Egyptian-Moroccan talks.

Meets Mubarak

NC1209073988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0708 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—At the Presidential Palace this morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, who is visiting Cairo. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Mohamed al-Tazi, Moroccan ambassador in Cairo, also attended the meeting.

Filali Comments

NC1209095288 Cairo MENA in English 0917 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 12 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received today a message from King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with the present situation in the Arab world and in North Africa.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali said following his meeting today with President Mubarak that the message came within the context of special and developing ties between the two countries.

Asked if there were any conditions as regards the referendum on the Western Sahara, Filali said there are no rpt no conditions but there are proposals from U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, concerning the programme on organising and supervising the referendum. Filali said Morocco has accepted these proposals and expressed hope for Perez de Cuellar to succeed in ending this problem as soon as possible.

On issues he will discuss with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Filali said they will tackle bilateral ties, adding that there is coordination between Egypt and Morocco as regards the Gulf incidents. He further expressed beleif that coordination is a positive necessity in the interest of the Arab cause.

Ghali Returns From African Tour 10 Sep

NC1009181488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1721 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this evening following a 5-day tour of Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda. On his arrival, Ghali said that he had handed messages from President Mubarak to the presidents of the three countries. He noted that he also had held talks with those countries' foreign ministers on African issues and on the preparations for the conference of the Nile River Basin countries scheduled to convene in Cairo between 31 October and 2 November. During his stopovers in Addis Ababa and Djibouti, he disclosed that he had met with the foreign ministers of both countries.

Communique Issued With Uganda

NC1009133488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Kampala, 10 Sep (MENA)—Egypt and Uganda have welcomed the current negotiations among Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States, which aim at reaching an agreement concerning the independence of Namibia and the restoration of peace to Angola. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the negotiations so far and called on the concerned parties to continue the negotiations until a settlement is reached.

In a joint communique issued at the conclusion of the visit to Uganda by Dr Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, the two sides praised the current efforts of the UN secretary general to resolve the Sahara problem and expressed satisfaction over the willingness of the parties involved to cooperate with him to implement the UN resolutions concerning this issue.

The communique notes the satisfaction of both countries with the efforts of the "Undugu" nations to consolidate regional cooperation among the Nile Basin nations in all fields. The two countries agreed to coordinate their efforts to ensure the success of the coming "Undugu" meeting, slated to be held in Cairo from 31 October to 2 November.

The two sides also expressed satisfaction over the progress of Egyptian-Ugandan relations.

Egypt and Uganda expressed their extreme concern over the deteriorating situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and called on the Israeli occupation authorities to abide by the fourth Geneva convention concerning territories under occupation.

The communique says that holding a UN-sponsored international conference in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 is the best framework within which a just, comprehensive, and durable peace could be achieved. According to the statement, all the parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, should take part in this conference.

As for the Gulf war, the communique states that both countries have welcomed Iraq's and Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The two countries also hailed the positive role which the Nonaligned Movement is playing in the consolidation of world peace, in nuclear disarmament, and in working for peaceful coexistence among world nations. The communique says that Egypt and Uganda will continue to work to promote the objectives of the Nonaligned Movement.

Rwandan Official Brings Message for Mubarak

NC1109193888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] [Bonaventure] Habimana, secretary general of Rwanda's National Revolutionary Movement for Development, arrived in Cairo tonight on a 3-day visit to Egypt. The Rwandan official said that he is carrying a message from his country's president for President Husni Mubarak. He also expressed his happiness at being in Egypt and praised bilateral relations.

The Rwandan official is scheduled to hold talks during his visit with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, as well as African issues. The two officials also will discuss a draft agreement between the NDP and the Revolutionary Movement for Development to further cooperation between political parties of both countries. Habimana will also meet Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Received by Mubarak

NC1209104888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Habimana, Rwandan vice president and secretary general of Rwanda's National Revolutionary Movement for Development [name and title as received], and the delegation accompanying him.

Present at the meeting were Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Rwandan charge d'affaires in Cairo.

Habimana arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 4-day visit.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1109104988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal arrived in Cairo before noon today on a 3-day visit to Egypt. Upon arrival, he stated that he had brought a message for President Husni Mubarak from the Bolivian president and praised Egypt's role under President Husni Mubarak's leadership in the efforts to achieve stability in the Middle East.

During his visit the Bolivian minister is scheduled to hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on international issues of common interest, the Middle East situation, and bilateral relations.

Meets With Mubarak

NC1209095588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal, who is visiting Cairo, at the Presidential Palace this morning. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Bolivian charge d'affaires in Cairo also attended the meeting.

The Bolivian minister arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 3-day visit.

Military Industry Official Returns From London

NC1009080188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chairman of the Arab Industrialization Organization, returned from London early this morning following a 4-day visit to Britain, during which he held talks with officials of the Rolls Royce and British Aerospace companies on joint ventures between these firms and his organization.

In an arrival statement, Al-'Urabi said he had discussed with the British officials the prospects for cooperation in new and advanced production, noting that British officials, both at the official and company levels, expressed readiness to strengthen bilateral relations in the field of aircraft production, particularly helicopters. Chairman al-'Urabi added that during his visit he toured the Farnborough air show for aircraft and electronics. He also visited the Rolls Royce aircraft engine factories, where he acquainted himself with advanced technology in the aircraft industry. He noted that three British firms are currently cooperating with Egypt in the production of helicopters and missiles.

Interior Minister Opposes New Political Parties

JN1009171988 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Sep 88 pp 1, 13

[text] AL-WAFD has learned that Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr has opposed the formation of new opposition political parties. The minister noted the burdens borne by the security departments as a result of the existence of such parties. During a meeting of the political parties committee [lajnat al-ahzab al-siyasiyah] to discuss applications to establish al-sahwah [awakening] and al-ittihad [unity] parties, Badr said that the present security conditions in Egypt make the formation of new parties unbearable. He demanded a reduction in the number of the currently active opposition parties.

The interior minister also demanded the application of the provisions of the political parties law No 40 for the year 1977 to monitor the activities of the existing parties and the extent of their observance of the law in terms of their financial resources and their contacts with external political powers. The minister also asked the political parties committee to draw up the rules governing contacts between these parties and any foreign party or political organization in order to question them in this regard.

The committee decided to resume the discussion of the applications of the two parties next Monday [12 September].

The committee has already rejected an application to form the Misr al-Fatah [Young Egypt] Party.

Libya

Nonaligned Movement Reaffirms Support for Libya

LD1109155688 Tripoli JANA in English 1455 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Nicosia, Al-Fatih 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The conference of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement reaffirmed their total solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in confronting all conspiracies hatched against its security and sovereign independence.

The economic committee of the ministerial conference of the nonaligned countries condemned strongly in its final communique all economic measures taken by the American Administration against the people of Great Jamahiriyah and considered them as a form of economic coercion for political purposes.

The communique urged the international community to stand on the side of the Libyan Arab people and support it in confronting all schemes aimed at undermining its freedom and economic and social gains.

Mauritania

Taya Meets Polisario Official
LD0809130888 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya has received Mr Mustapha Bachir Sayed, member in charge of international affairs of the Polisario Political Bureau. The talks dealt with the current negotiation between the Polisario and the UN secretary general on a referendum of self-determination in the Western Sahara. The Western Sahara envoy thanked our country for the positive role it is playing in the development of the Western Sahara issue.

Trial of Ba'thist Group Opens 10 September
AB0909200388 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 9 Sep 88

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Mauritanian authorities are continuing their campaign against the pro-Iraqi Ba'thist group. There was a big crackdown on them last year, and last month a number of Ba'thists were arrested. The authorities were tight lipped about what was to happen to the detainees, but now it seems they are being put on trial. From Nouakchott Sheba Kaye telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Informed sources here in Nouakchott say that the trial of the arrested members of the Ba'thist Party will begin tomorrow before a special tribunal at Jreida military base, 30 kms from the capital. These sources say that 17 people—15 civilians and 2 Army officers—are to be tried, 4 of them in absentia. They have been charged with threatening the security of the state by passing intelligence to a foreign country and recruiting members of the Armed Forces to serve foreign interests. The Mauritanian authorities have issued no statement about the number of people affected by the crackdown on suspected Ba'thists, but unconfirmed sources speak about the dismissal of hundreds of people from the Army and the security forces.

There is no evidence to suggest that those arrested planned a coup d'etat in the near future. However, observers believe that the government is determined to keep the Army free of any influence by political movements. Informed sources say the accused admitted, when they were first interrogated, that their party had a military wing and that they received money and instructions from another country. The arrest of these members of the pro-Iraqi Ba'thist Party was unexpected since there has recently been a rapprochement between Nouakchott and Baghdad. [end recording]

Iraq Said To Finance Ba'th Group
AB1109145988 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Nouakchott, Sept 11 (AFP)—For eight years, Iraqi diplomats have coordinated and financed a clandestine network of the pan-Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Mauritania, a former government minister alleged in a military court north of here.

The charge was made by the leading defendant—and at the same time number one prosecution witness—on Saturday, first day of a trial of 16 alleged Ba'th activists before a special court in Jreida, just north of the capital.

Yehdih Ould Breidelleil, a former information minister, and 15 co-defendants, including four tried in absentia, are charged on three counts: membership in an organisation working to undermine national security, enrolling troops on behalf of a foreign power and covering up subversive activities. The first charge is punishable by one to five years in prison. The second by 10 to 20 years' hard labour.

Mr. Breidelleil caused a stir when he unexpectedly pleaded guilty and gave evidence for the prosecution. He said two members of the Iraqi Embassy staff in Dakar, Senegal, had been in charge of infiltrating the Ba'th Party into Mauritania since 1980.

Without naming the two, Mr Breidelleil said they had paid him a monthly salary of 110,000 ouguiyas (about 1,500 dollars) as leader of the Ba'th movement in Mauritania, as well as smaller monthly stipends to other prominent members.

The same embassy provided 10 million ouguiyas (about 130,000 dollars) to establish a pro-Iraqi, pan-Arab trade union movement in Mauritania, he said.

The former minister said the Mauritanian Ba'th movement had an underground military and political structure. The military wing, which dated from 1980, took orders directly from the Iraqi Embassy in Dakar and was headed by a former officer, Mokhtar Ould Saleck, one of the 12 men in the dock.

Four witnesses gave evidence at the first hearing and the trial continued Sunday.

Two Senegalese lawyers representing the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International and a representative of the Mauritanian League of Human Rights were present. The 12 accused were arrested on July 30 and were held in secret until their trial. Besides Mr. Breidelleil and Mr. Saleck, they are mostly intellectuals, journalists and teachers.

Unconfirmed reports at the time said the crackdown on alleged Ba'th Party activists, said to be particularly active in the trade union movement, could net "up to

300 people," including members of security forces. Mr Breidelleil and six other Ba'th activists were sentenced by a Nouakchott court in September 1987 to suspended six-month prison terms for "membership in an illegal organisation and for indoctrinating under-age youngsters."

Morocco

Envoy to Switzerland on UN Western Sahara Plan

AB0809092588 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Interview with Moroccan ambassador to Switzerland Ali Benjelloun by correspondent Jean-Maurice Boumba Mbida; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Western Sahara is a Moroccan territory, the referendum on self-determination is only an episode, and episodes have never changed the course of history. This statement was made by Moroccan State Minister Ahmed Moulay Alaoui to newsmen. He explained that the 1911 and 1912 Agreements, by which France had, according to him, subleased northern and southern Morocco to Spain, also mentioned a part of the territory extending up to the Western Sahara. Ahmed Alaoui's statement coincides with a Moroccan explanation mission to several African countries. King Hassan II's envoy, the Moroccan ambassador to Switzerland, Ali Benjelloun, is presently in Libreville, where he has already been received by Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo. Libreville is his third stop after Dakar, Senegal, and Abidjan, Ivory Coast. It must be recalled that Morocco and the Polisario Front have agreed on the UN plan for the organization of a referendum in the Western Sahara. The Moroccan has just explained the plan to our correspondent Jean-Maurice Boumba Mbida:

[Begin recording] [Benjelloun] The peace plan that has been adopted is adequate enough. It provides for following all stages of the procedure that has been initiated by the UN secretary general with assistance from the OAU. It is a normal procedure. The UN secretary general must first inform the Security Council about the costs of organizing the referendum. He will probably appoint a special council and in the field there are many operations to be undertaken, including a population census, the [words indistinct] and the referendum.

[Mbida] As far as representation is concerned, will the two sides actually be represented?

[Benjelloun] The plan has been accepted by the Parliament, and what you call the other side, with the support of Algeria and Mauritania. Basically what are we seeking in this matter? We seek a credible refendum, which is controlled by the United Nations with assistance from the OAU. This referendum must be held, and only afterward will everything be determined.

[Mbida] In case the determination is slightly unfavorable to King Hassan II, what would be the Moroccan reaction?

[Benjelloun] As a Moroccan, I cannot contemplate such an assumption. Morocco is sure of its rights and convinced that the referendum will result in the federation of the territory to Morocco. [end recording]

Popular Forces Party Leader Views Maghreb Unity

PM0909083788 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Sep 88 pp 20-21

[Unattributed interview with Moroccan National Union of Popular Forces leader Abdullah Ibrahim in Casablanca; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [AL-MAJALLAH] Your party has its own analysis of the democratic process in Morocco. You wrote recently that within the framework of the new facts your party would take part in the next elections. Is there any link between your new position and developments in the Arab Maghreb?

[Ibrahim] We can understand the the possibility of changing our position on the legislative elections in Morocco if we consider the following: An Arab Maghreb, regardless of the formula or the organizational structures agreed upon by its leaders, cannot be built before they implement three basic conditions which include holding a referendum on the plan among the Maghreb peoples, since such a plan cannot be implemented without a democratic referendum because it basically hinges on the backing of all elements of the people. This is to ensure that the question of the Arab Maghreb states does not become an issue concerning leaders alone. In our opinion, a referendum would be in line with the general spirit and the scale of political development among the Arab Maghreb peoples because it will give weight to those negotiating on behalf of the Arab Maghreb states abroad, thus making them acceptable and making their decisions binding on everyone. Take, for instance, the presidential decisions made in the permanent economic committee: The experiment has failed without anyone in the Arab Maghreb states knowing whether it failed or succeeded. As for the second condition, it is to give credibility to the main decisions concerning joint development sectors, whether in the industrial or agricultural fields, or the field of basic services, namely by linking the Arab Maghreb with the southern African Sahara by railroad, extending gas and oil pipelines through the Arab Maghreb, and building installations needed for industrial complexes. There must be an agreement to involve the people, via a joint parliament elected from the parties concerned, in general Maghreb efforts so they understand the nature of the problems raised, the volume of costs, methods of popular implementation, and future prospects. As for the third condition, it is to turn the summit meeting into a permanent presidential council, and organize a permanent secretariat to prepare studies, resolutions, and agendas. [passage omitted]

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you believe that such a concept is sufficient to crystallize the Arab Maghreb plan?

[Ibrahim] Yes, because development will be based on joint efforts. Moreover, exploitation of resources will be more rational and beneficial. The Arab Maghreb is rich, but its resources are distributed in a way that requires both guidance and rationalism. We must not forget the cooperation which we could maintain in the nuclear, phosphate, and gas industries and mineral prospecting over a geographical area covering 6 million square km.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you not fear that ideological differences among Maghreb regimes may prevent this concept from being realized?

[Ibrahim] This depends on the wisdom of the leaders of the Arab Maghreb states. I do not believe that ideological differences among the regimes, given relations based on respect, will prevent the idea of having a joint development sector that is not controlled by one party or the other. The Maghreb peoples are determined to achieve unity. The matter has become pressing, especially in view of current economic blocs close to North Africa. I do not believe it is possible to eleminate differences over a joint plan. But any problem can be overcome, especially among partners who consider themselves responsible for making a huge historical plan such as the Arab Maghreb plan a success. [passage omitted]

[AL-MAJALLAH] In view of all these facts, will you agree to your party's participating in government if it is asked to do so?

[Ibrahim] If an Arab Maghreb based on a referendum and an elected parliament is established, that will boost the democratic process in the Arab states. In this case, our duty will be to participate in government for the first time because the situation in Morocco will be corrected. Thus, the Arab Maghreb plan will have influence even inside every state, that is, with regard to the democratic process. Therefore, joint efforts could reflect positively on the domestic situation inside every state. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Britain's Geoffrey Howe Arrives in Khartoum

JN1109101988 Khartoum SUNA in English 0932 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum. Sep 11—(SUNA)—British Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived here yesterday on a 2 day state visit to Sudan during which he is to have talks with senior officials on bilateral relations between the two countries.

Upon arrival, Sir Geoffrey has hailed Sundanese-British ties and said his visit aims among other issues to reiterate the backing of the people and government of Britain to Sudanese people, in particular following the floods and rains disasters.

Sir Geoffrey was received upon arrival by Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih and a number of senior officials at the British and other western embassies in Khartoum. Howe will give a press conference prior to his departure.

Meets Al-Mirghani

JN1109191888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sep. 11—SUNA—Chairman of the State Council, Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani discussed with visiting British Foreign Minister, Sir Geoffery Howe prospects of boosting Sudanese-British relations.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Husayn Abu Salih said in a statement that Al-Mirghani had stressed during his meeting with the British official the necessity of widening the scope of bilateral relations in line with the established friendship between the Sudanese and british people.

Abu Salih said Sir Geoffery had expressed his country's readiness to help Sudan ward off the disaster caused by rain and floods. Sir Geoffery also pledged his country's readiness to work for bringing about peace and stability in Sudan and support the country's economic development.

Holds News Conference

JN1109195488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 11—SUNA—Britain's Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe said his country has donated one million Sterling pounds to locust-swept African countries for combating operations indicating that large portion of this sum will be assigned for Sudan.

Howe, in a press conference here today said his talks with the Sudanese officials had concentrated in the regional issues in African and the civil war in the southern part of the country. Britain hopes that more additional assistances will pour the impacts of the calamity, he said. [sentence as received]

On the war in the south Howe explained that his country could play a role for ending the civil war adding that he personally encourages the two sides to come together for solving all problems.

He pledged to hold talks with the Sudan's neighbouring countries on the best means for restoring peace in the south.

On his talks with officials here Howe said he received positive response by them for holding talks with the rebel movement of Col. John Garang to end fighting in the south.

"Britain as any other country encourages such a trend" Howe said. [passage indistinct]

Departs for Addis Ababa

JN1109194188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sep. 11—SUNA—British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe [left] for Addis Ababa this afternoon ending a two-day visit to Sudan in the first leg of a East African tour.

Sir Geoffrey held talks with Chairman of the State Council, Ahmad 'Ali Al-Mirghani, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and ministers of foreign affairs and finance.

Sir Geoffrey was seen off at Khartoum airport by the minister of foreign affairs, the British ambassador to Sudan and senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Defense Minister on Ibn 'Oumar Forces' Surrender

JN0909113788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Sep (SUNA)—General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, minister of defense, has again asserted that the forces of Ibn 'Oumar, one of the leaders of Chadian opposition, surrendered all their weapons to the Armed Forces.

His excellency told the newspaper AL-USBU' issued here today that the surrender of these weapons has been completed and that there are lists on the number of weapons received. He denied that these forces buried some of their weapons in the desert. He said the quantities of weapons as compared with the number of troops confirm there is no imbalance in the receipt. He asserted that the number of weapons is larger than the number of troops. Gen 'Abd al-Majid also asserted that the weapons are now under the control of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The Ibn 'Oumar forces, estimated at more than 2,000 troops, entered Sudan via Al-'Uwaynat last month following an internal rift. These forces intend to enter Chadian territory. Sudan is currently mediating between the Chadian Government and these forces.

10,000 Refugees Enter From East 'Last Week'

JN1009153788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 10 Sep (INA)—Refugee and Relief Affairs Minister Hasan 'Ali Shabbu has said that approximately 10,000 refugees entered Sudan via the eastern border during the last week.

In a statement yesterday, Shabbu said that the influx of refugees has recently continued to a point which has exceeded the state's ability to receive them. He added that this issue constitutes an annoying situation for the government and citizens. [passage omitted]

SPLA Radio on Attack on Relief Aid Convoy

EA0709213888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Sep 88

[From "With the Battalions" program]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, SPLA combatants in the field: As you may have heard in our news bulletin, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's much [word indistinct] peace initiative with the SPLM-SPLA, has, as expected, turned out to be warmongering. Instead of being serious about peace dialogue with the movement, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is very serious about his ill-advised military ofensive against the SPLA. We in the SPLA are well aware of Al-Sadiq's monkey-tricks. Whenever he talks peace, he prepares for a military offensive at the same time. [passage omitted]

Stooge Angelo Beda was reported to have blamed the movement for the deteriorating hunger situation in the south. We have repeatedly been saying, let the relief convoys purely be free from military escorts, but the government insists on including the military in it. If the movement were anti-relief aid to the suffering masses, how could it have let those foreign double truck vehicles to enter the country? The SPLA left these trucks to enter the country from Yei because it knew that the trucks were carrying food aid to the civilians and because they were alone, without military escorts.

But the SPLA could not allow these same trucks to go from Yei to Juba, because from Yei the trucks were combined with a heavy military escort, which included infantry, tanks, and artillery. This presence of heavy military escorts raised suspicion among the SPLA soldiers that these heavy trucks were not only carrying food aid but military equipment to the Sudanese Government. Indeed, these trucks were atacked on 29th of last month by the gigantic SPLA force of Shakkush 1 and 2 under the combat operational command of Alternate Commander John Kong Nyun, deputy zonal commander for Central and Western Equatoria. [passage omitted] All the blame will go to the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi for its insistence of hijacking relief aid for its soldiers.

Also, let the foreign businessmen who sacrificed their trucks to carry food and military hardware to Sudan know that the SPLA is the sole authentic representative of the Sudanese people, and any truck entering the country from the south must first get clearance from its offices abroad or in the country. Otherwise, any illegal entry into the SPLA-controlled areas will be considered an act of aggression, especially when such an entry consists of heavy military escort.

The SPLA is on a 24-hour fulltime alert and will not allow any act that will undermine the security of the citizens under its control.

At this juncture we sent thousands of military medals and Mobrukat [congratulations] to the SPLA forces of Shakkush 1 and 2, under the overall command of Alternative Cdr John Kong Nyun for their commendable resistance against the enemy aggression along the Juba-Yei road. [passage omitted]

SPLA Radio Reports Recent Government Losses

EA0709231388 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Bahr Al Ghazal—Combined SPLA forces of Twik-Twik, eagle and Zalzal Battalions under the direct command of Alternate Commander Peter Wol Apiu and the overall command of Commander Daniel Aweil Akuot, alternate member of the SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander of Northern Bahr Al Ghazal, conducted an ambush on the enemy troops between river Kir and (?Boma) Kir on 21 August 1988. In this ambush 17 enemy soldiers were killed and many others were injured. Correspondent says that 150 innocent civilians who were abducted by the enemy troops as slaves were rescued unharmed. A lot of food items were also abandoned by the fleeing enemy troops. [passage omitted]

Yei—reports reaching Radio SPLA from SPLA forces around Yei revealed that on 17 August 1988 a Tata lorry driven by Silver Bai Bail and belonging to brigadier of police Henry Donima was blown up by landmines 5 miles from Morobo on the Yei-Kaia road. The lorry was completely damaged. Two passengers were killed and 10 wounded.

Similarly, on 5 August 1988 a Land Rover detonated a landmine 5 miles from Yei town, at Atende Airport. The Land Rover was destroyed and Lieutenant Al-Mahdi Ahmad was killed and others were seriously wounded.

On that same day [word indistinct] transit goods truck no.4665 KRB detonated a landmine 15 mines on Yei-Juba road at a place called Limbi. The truck was completely destroyed. Three enemy soldiers were killed, and two were seriously wounded. [passage omitted]

Ambush Reported

EA1009175788 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The large enemy convoy codenamed Jundi al-Watan that has been bogged down since the beginning of this month between Limbi and Loka on Juba-Yei road has fallen yet into another deliberate ambush conducted by SPLA forces of Shakkush task forces one and two under the direct combat command of Captain Abraham Akoy Chawach and First Lieutenant Joseph Amet Tewongo and the overall command of Alternate Commander John Kong Nyun, deputy zonal commander of central and western Equatoria.

The battle which started on 2nd to 6th September 1988, has so far claimed more than 90 lives of enemy soldiers with many others wounded. [Our] correspondent says that 38 vehicles and one [word indistinct] tank were destroyed. It is worth mentioning that the enemy convoy that is trying to go to Juba is mixed, consisting of many [as heard] big double trucks from a foreign country and a military [word indistinct] made up of an infantry battalion supported with tanks, artillery, and military engineers. Most of the destroyed trucks were loaded with food items except one which is loaded with diesel oil: Twenty-six of the destroyed vehicles have their plate numbers on except 11 whose numbers were removed. [passage omitted]

A small boy of 3 years by the name of Miki Waya was rescued unharmed from the burning trucks. [Our] correspondent says that until last Tuesday, 6th September, 1988, fighting was still going on. [passage omitted]

Anya Nya II Head Ready to Talk With Garang

JN1109113588 Khartoum SUNA in English 0952 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sep 11 (SUNA)—Secretary General of Anya Nya II Movement Mr Bill Liel Ngundelng has asserted that the movement will come up with a new initiative for ending the war in the South and the initiative will be submitted to both the government and the Rebel Movement of Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA).

Mr Liel Ngundelng told daily AL-NAHAR that the Anya Nya II movement does not object meeting John Garang with whom the movement is at logger head.

Anya Nya II is a pro-government militia group which opposes the Rebel Movement of John Garang and support government troops against the rebel.

Mr Liel Ngundelng said his movement is in full agreement with the move taken by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the second major party in Sudan, who had contacted the SPLA for peace talks in the South of the Sudan.

AL-AHRAM Iinterviews Defense Minister

NC1009111188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Sudanese Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Muhammad Khalil has lauded Egypt's role in helping Sudan to confront the floods disaster, noting that Egypt took the lead in establishing an air lift carrying relief aid to the flood-afflicted citizens in Sudan.

In an interview with the Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM today, the Sudanese minister added that Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and defense minister, had contacted him and offered to put the capabilities of the Egyptian Forces at Sudan's disposal. The Sudanese defense minister also praised Saudi Arabia, the largest contributor of relied aid aircraft to Sudan, as well as the YAR, Kuwait, and Iraq for their efforts in this respect. He added that Sudan's conclusion after the flood ordeal is as follows: Despite the differences that might exist, the Arab homeland is solid and healthy. He noted that Sudan will rearrange its foreign political relations and inclinations in light of the outcome of the experience.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, the Sudanese defense minister strongly criticized some foreign media reports that had used the flood disaster to defame Sudan. He noted that Sudan is an open country and that those who disseminate such reports are biased. He affirmed that Sudan does not accept any excesses or intervention in its sovereignty and noted that Sudan had firmly declined the request of some Western humanitarian organizations to distribute their relief aid in areas they selected, regardless of the Sudanese Government's plan of action, its priorities, or the real needs of the flood-stricken citizens.

Turning to the attempts aimed at solving the problem in the south peacefully, the Sudanese defense minister said that although these attempts are profitable, the Sudanese Armed Forces must not be lax in handling the situation. He noted that the peaceful endeavors should go hand-in-hand with military action, adding that the Sudanese Armed Forces will continue their combat and defense assignments until a cease-fire agreement in the south is reached.

As for the deteriorating situation in Darfur Province in western Sudan, General Khalil said that the Sudanese Government had declared the province "an area of operations" where the Armed Forces are cooperating with the police to maintain order and arrest the outlaws. He noted that the restoration of calm to the area has begun and that cases of looting in the province have fallen by 90 percent.

SANU Party Leader Denies Reported Dismissal

JN0509194688 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Sep (SUNA)—Andreo Wiw, leader of the Sudanese African National Union, SANU, has denied media reports that he was relieved of his post as party leader. He said that what happened is that a number of the members of his party's Central Committee held an illegal meeting and decided to either cancel the appointment of Philip Akot [name as received] as deputy leader or consider the party leaders as having resigned.

In a statement to AL-SIYASAH published today, Wiw explained that the elements leading the opposition within his party are motivated by personal gains, stressing that the party's Central Committee will meet within days to decide several matters. He also expressed hope that the security situation in the south will permit the members of the party's Central Committee in the south to come to the capital so that all of the Central Committee members can attend the meeting. It is noteworthy that Andreo Wiw is acting as party leader these days.

Ministry to Check Relief Milk for Radiation

JN0509202488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 5, SUNA—Wide-scale repercussions have broken out in the wake of a news that large quantities of radiation-contaminated milk cans were brought to Sudanese traders fram relief organizations.

The news reported yesterday by the daily AL-SIYASAH quoting the West German T.V. has prompted the Health Ministry to come out with an announcement that measures have been taken to check up all quantities of milk that arrived to port Sudan port and to see any arriving quantities until make sure that they are free of radiation.

Moreover, the Foreign Minister, Dr. Husayn Abu Salih has ordered verfication to be carried out on the W-German T.V. report.

Meanwhile, the daily AL-SIYASAH in its editorial today bitterly denounced such a trend and said "It is better for the Sudanese people to die of hungry than of radiation."

Tunisia

President Announces 1989 Presidential Elections

LD0909141988 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has given an important interview to our colleagues: the weekly NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, the daily LE MONDE, and the second television channel, Antenne 2. The interview was in anticipation of the official visit that the Tunisian leader is due to make to France starting next Monday. Ben Ali answered a whole range of questions. He announced some important news: First of all, presidential and general elections will be held on 7 November 1989, that is, next year. He also talked about the possibility of giving permission for an Islamic party. Regarding the status of women, he reaffirmed that there is no question of this being changed. Finally, on the subject of his country's relations with France, he described them as good, even though he criticized the

French for not being aggressive enough. You will now hear an extract from this interview, this time on the subject of the Tunisian presidential election.[Begin recording] [Ben Ali] We have seen legitimacy since 7 November. There have been many demonstrations in my favor. I do not know whether you lived through this period. As far as legitimacy is concerned, I have it, and I have it from the Constitution.

[Unidentified interviewer] Does this mean that when the presidential election takes place next time—we have seen today that you were able to work out a national pact with the opposition parties—there will not be just a single candidate for the presidency?

[Ben Ali] What do you mean, a single candidate? No, not at all. It is open to all persuasions in the country. [end recording]

President Makes Statement on Kurds, U.S. Move

JN1109142588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has announced that the purpose of the Zionist campaign against Iraq is well known to us and that this campaign is aimed at getting the international media to abandon the cause of our people and kinfolk in the occupied territories. He added that the purpose of this campaign is to spread lies, which will be exposed soon. This came in a statement by President Saddam Husayn during his reception of the head and members of the Permanent Bureau of the Arab Jurists Union today.

President Saddam Husayn announced that battles against the rebels continued only 2 days, no major battles took place, and the Army began to search for small groups in the valleys after the Iranian occupation army had been crushed. He added that the rebels frightened people and border villages and took children and women to Turkey for propaganda purposes. He added that the issue ends at this point although the cause of our people in the occupied land will continue. He said: There is no room for Israel or any other side to deny rights because nations do not die.

President Saddam Husayn said: The uproar raised by the Americans and other sides is to excite us, and they believe that we will relinquish our rights and principles and be frightened. He added that those who believe they represent the cultural concepts of the modern age have learned sound cultural concepts from the Arabs.

President Saddam Husayn revealed one of the war secrets. He said Iraq strongly rejected a U.S. attempt to supply Iraq with heavy guns in return for giving them [the Americans] a Russian-made T-72 tank. In this regard, he explained Iraq's war circumstances during the Bustan battles in 1982. He said they were extremely difficult circumstances when hardware was lacking and when some states ceased to supply hardware and spare parts to Iraq. At that time, Iraq had no experience in the world arms markets. He said the Iraqi intelligence service had an offer of 100 guns of the 175- mm caliber and 100,000 shells. He aserted that he told the intelligence service director that such a black market offer with such a quantity of weapons must be made with the knowledge of the competent U.S. authorities.

President Saddam Husayn pointed out that attempts [to obtain arms] were made. In one of these attempts, the intelligence service director went to the United States to follow up this issue as the last such attempt. But the director was surprised when they offered these guns in return for a Russian T-72 tank in a straightforward manner. President Saddam Husayn said Iraq categorically rejected this offer because Iraq does not sell its pledges to another state and because men have honor and respect their pledges.

Following is the full text of leader Saddam Husayn's remarks:

My brothers and colleagues the attending professors, with profound thanks I appreciate being granting this medal. I realize the meanings of this medal, some of which you have expressed by words and others I can realize due to my knowledge of the perceptive Arab man who makes a decision of this kind. Nevertheless, I must tell you what I believe in. What you have lauded and still laud was something that I did for our cause as Arabs wherever this cause may be, whether in Iraq or elsewhere. For me, I only consider it a duty I am supposed to carry out wherever it may be. What you consider a sound thing or a sound condition and also what you regard as positive is only a duty, which any official in charge should presumably carry out once he honestly and sincerely assumes the honor of responsibility. This is an assessment of any action you believe to be good in the march of your revolution. This reminds us of the good deeds of our great grandfathers, who considered their good or great actions a duty. I beseech Almighty God to enable us to carry out such great actions that will satisfy you as intellectuals and lawyers, standing on the same level of importance as men who safeguard their nation's conscience and aspirations for a better future. I thank Professor Jalal [not further identified] for his gift.

We cannot forget the significance of your words. We cannot help always remembering your sincere feelings urging us to take further accurate action that will render a sincere service to the Arab nation, including Iraq. We are certain that your country, Iraq, has passed through difficult circumstances. In fact, this has constituted an ordeal to the entire Arab nation, even if the battle takes place on Iraqi territory sometimes and in front of Iraqi territory other times according to the circumstances of the military battles. Despite this, our faith in God was strong and entrenched and has never been shaken. We have always believed that we will triumph, not because we have great material capabilities, but most importantly, because we are right and because God loves those who are on the right path. In light of this, victory will be on the side of the Arabs in this war through which the enemies sought to humiliate the entire Arab nation and pave the way for further problems and psychological and material deterioration within the ranks of the Arab nation.

We always had in mind the fear that the Iraqis and the Arabs would one day say that the Iraqis could not protect the Arab homeland's eastern flank and that they had left the door open for the fires that are coming from their furnace to burn the Arab nation and quell the state of awakening that will bring good tidings to the Arab nation. By the state of awakening, I mean the path the Arab citizen must choose and the duties he must perform toward his cause. The Arab citizen's cause these days is to reactivate the Arab nation's pan-Arab and humanitarian role, and not onlt the pan-Arab role, because the pan-Arab role cannot have great influence unless it springs from a humanitarian role that seeks the goodness of all human beings and considers the nation's happiness part of the happiness of mankind and humanity in general. Your triumph over darkness and wrongdoers is, as far as we are concerned, not just a military one. It has a more significant moral value. Further, it is an occasion for the Arab nation to furnish another piece of evidence that it never seeks to humiliate the party it triumphs over, just as it refuses to be subjected to ignominy. Our conduct also goes to show that the Arab nation has no designs on others and insists on reciprocity. We will not allow anyone to usurp our rights, no matter how insignificant the transgression. The Arab nation is equally opposed to being offended and committing aggression. The logic applies when our territory is under occupation and vice versa. Discussing war and peace with a Westerner once, I said to him: Suppose, for argument's sake, the Iranians got as far as this door you see over there, we would still want peace. But no one should think that, in our quest for peace, we are prepared to concede a single inch of Iraqi territory. Never mind the fact that the Iranians are now in control of Al-Faw peninsula. Even if they succeeded, God forbid, in penetrating as deep indside Iraq as Al-Basrah and further through Baghdad itself, they will still be expelled across the border. Such is our resolve that our military standing will not make much of a difference. On the other hand, suppose we penetrate deep inside Iran, we will not covet a single inch of Iranian territory.

The conversation in question happened under circumstances which the [Western] foreigner might not have appreciated as he would now. Our argument has not changed since September 1980, which explains why our people have consistently been convinced of the justice of their cause. Our language has been the same throughout—when God helped us make substantial territorial gains in Iran, when we retreated back to the border, or Iran crossed into our territory. The same applied when our militry plans called for us to cross into Iranian territory again and withdraw on our own volition when the Iranians claimed that we were forced out by their military—except that they had no Army left when we entered their land. They were crushed, taken prisoner, killed, or forced to flee. In the 2 weeks our forces stayed there, not one Iranian military element appeared. They used to send small patrols to check whether the territory was free from Iraqis. Our success neither went to our heads nor made us lose our composure. It is the same bases and the same essence. Iran's land is for Iran and Iraq's land is for Iraq. The Iranians and Iraqis should play a positive role in the region's security. The Iranians should respect the Arabs as a whole, just as the Iraqis and the Arabs should respect Iran. There should be no interfrence in domestic affairs and no relinquishement of Iraq's rights. Moreover, there should not be a relinquishment of Iran's rights.

My brothers, on this basis we sent a message on 6 August this year. It was clear. We stressed our adherence to Resolution No 598 and affirmed that there should be direct negotiations, that it is necessry to settle all the disputed issues, and that no issue should be left because any unsettled issue may disrupt or even undermine peace. In the message, we also said clearly that as long as we are required to stop fighting at sea, on the ground, and in the air, we will not allow Iran to benefit from its numerous ports along its coast at a time when our only outlet to the gulf, Shatt al-'Arab, is closed in our face. Shatt al-'Arab should be cleared to be suitable to navigation, and we should be allowed to use the Gulf freely and without obstacles.

Since then, they have been trying to maneuver. On 6 August, the UN secretary general told us that the Iranians had agreed to the principles stated in President Saddam Husayn's message, which clarifies the points I have mentioned. Therefore, any attempt to maneuver is a disavowal of the essence of the agreement reached by us and the Iranians through the UN secreatry general. With God's help, peace will come, because the Iranians no longer have any way to hide their intentions from their people, who no longer believe that expansion is useful and can be achieved at the expense of Iraq or the Arab nation.

You have explained the motivation and meaning of the uproar created by the Americans and other sides. They believe that such uproars can tame us and get us to relinquish our rights or principles. They believe such an uproar will frighten us. I am over 50 years old. Those who are 20, 18, or 19 years old may be frightened. How can I be frightened at this age and when I have top responsibility? And how can my brothers in the leadership be frightened? A simple person may be frightened, but it is shameful for leaders to be frightened. If they are afraid, they should not be leaders. If those sides believe they represent the cultural concepts of the modern age, we can say they learned the correct cultural concepts from the Arabs. The Arabs taught them how to eat, sit in an appropriate way, drink, and move from the caves where they lived like animals to safe houses. They taught them reading and writing, and directed them to God through prophets and messengers, who were all Arabs. So, they showed them how to think logically and correctly after they had been worshipping all kinds of animals and other things.

We respect peoples' stands. However, what happens is not peoples' stands but stands of media that are influenced by Zionsit schemes. They aim at drawing vague signs about specific stands in the minds of some peoples. Otherwise, the point is as you have said. We have recent experiences; we do not want to go back deep in history. For how long has Lebanon been slaughtered? Its children, women, and old men are slain every day by people inside and outside Lebanon. We have never seen the U.S. Senate meet to punbish and impose sanctions against those inside or outside. The Senate may imagine that Iraq lives on the United States. It is as though when they make such decisions they harm or weaken Iraq. The United States is rich, but it is rich for itself. The Arabs everywhere are rich by themselves in morale and wealth.

Once, we were going through very difficult circumstances. Battles were going on in the Bustan, and we ran short of hardware. Some of the big powers with which we had good highl-level armament relations stopped providing us with hardware, spare parts, and everything. At that time, we did not have enough experience with arms markets in the world. Before that, some deals came through the intelligence. They said some parties are offering 100 guns of the 175-mm caliber and 100,000 shells in the black market. At that time, this was a big offer. I said to the director of the intelligence: This is an American gun. It cannot be offered on the black market in such a large amount without the knowledge of competent U.S. authorities. Not a single gun of these will arrive in Iraq, I said. He said: Let us try and see. I said: Alright. He said: Yes, it has become clear that the offer is in the United States. I told him not to bother as nothing would arrive. He said: Let me see. He went to the Untied States, and each time he gave information on the developments of the issue. I was telling him with all determination that we would not receive a single gun or shell, and he was saying: Let us try and see. They brought the guns to him and said: Do not you see the ship? They are in the ship, but in return for this we want you to give us a Russian-made T-72 tank. They told him directly without beating around the bush. This talk reached me while I was inside this battle. Our circumstances were difficult, so I wrote a comment, which is present among the documents. I told him: Tell them we are not the kind of people who sell their honor either under ordinary circumstyances or under difficult ones. If they imagine that through 100 guns and 100,000 shells for which we may pay multiplied amounts of money they can buy our pledge, which was made to another state whose weapons they seek to become acquainted with, then they are deluded. We are shedding all this blood for the sake of the principles in which we believe. I also told him: Tell them to search for someone else who may accept your bargain. Difficult circumstances come and go, but men's honor is equal to the highest values. Men have their word of honor, and there is nothing higher than the word of honor. It is said that Mu'awiyah told his son Yazid: When I die and you want to bury me, tell 'Amr ibn al-'As, so he will not create trouble for you: My father instructed that you should place him in the grave. You may have heard this story.

Mu'awiyah's son did as he was told. He told 'Amr ibn al-'As: My father instructed that you should place him in the grave. 'Amr ibn al-'As stepped down to the grave and Yazid told him: Will you pay allegiance to me? 'Amr ibn al-'As said: These are not your ideas, but the ideas of this dead man and I pay allegiance to you. This was the story, and it has one meaning, which you know well, namely, when an Arab utters a word of honor, he must be committed to it because if he wishes to go back on it he will not find anyone to support him, even his own son, wife, or closest relative.

At any rate, this campaign being led by Zionism against Iraq has objectives that are known to us. These objectives, among others, seek to prompt the world media to relinquish the cause of our people and kinfolk in the occupied territories and also to continue the clamor they have created. However, lies will be exposed soon, as the proverb says. This issue will end soon. Indeed, it has ended because battles took only 2 days and no large, significant battles occurred with the rebels. This is because the rebels' strength was derived from the occupation army, so when this army was crushed the small groups of rebels were scattered in the valleys and the [Iraqi] Army searched for them there. It seems the rebels intimidated the border villages or forced their residents to take some of their women and children to Turkey to use them for propagandistic purposes. However, this is over. In fact, it ended in 2 days. Some people have returned home, and those who do not wish to return may suit themselves, so the issue will be over. But our kinfolk's cause in the occupied territories will remain, and Israel or other parties cannot but admit realities. Peoples cannot die. However, peoples may sleep, and they can also wake up. The Arabs have woken up and are no longer afraid of what others used to intimidate them with.

I do not think the Arabs are ceding their rights. Now the Palestinians are raising the banner high, and the Israeli soldier is being humiliated by the children of Palestine. In their propaganda, they used to talk about his tallness, width, and capabilities. We saw how disorderly he appeared on television and how he was expelled by the stones of the Palestinian children.

They have thus turned him from that state and legend into a daily object of ridicule in the streets of Palestine. The furor they created has ended. It passed away, destroyed and defeated, and only small limbs remain, which is an easy and simple matter. Our news media alone can deal with it. We have not entered into war with it. The fraternal, friendly, Iraqi news media alone can defeat their hostile media. The battle that the wicked entered, designed, and fed has been foiled and terminated. Your heads remained high. God willing, you will always hear what pleases you and delights every Arab.

Thank you again, brothers and colleagues. May God bless you.

The Arab Jurists Union's Permanent Bureau had earlier awarded President Saddam Husayn with the Medal of Victory and Peace. The Permanent Bureau's delegation comprised Shabib al-Maliki, the union's secretary general; Muhsin al-'Ayni; Dr Yahya al-Jamal; Idris 'Abduh; Hamid al-Suqur; Dr Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub; Zuhayr al-Khatib; Jalal al-'Abbas; Mansur al-Kikhya; Mundhir Wannas; and Muhammad al-Majdhub.

Criticisms of U.S. Chemical Warfare Allegations

Jasim Calls Claims 'Silly'

JN0909180388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has described the allegations of some political and media circles which claimed that Iraq used chemical weapons in northern Iraq as silly.

In a statement to INA this evening, Jasim said that these allegations are reminiscent of coordination in recent years between the terrorist groups and some international circles as well as of the suspect role played by these circles against Iraq's security and independence. These allegations also reflect the extent of the disappointment of these circles following the complete demolition of the lies they were wagering on.

He added that Zionism and other suspect circles are behind these allegations and are trying to conceal the facts and distract attention from the RCC's historic resolution to grant general amnesty to the Kurds and enable them to return safely to Iraq. He said that those who propagate these allegations raise much doubt about their intention to continue to play the Kurdish card following the complete crush of the rebellion and the restoration of security and stability to Kurdish citizens in the region.

The culture and information minister also pointed out that Iraq knew that its crushing victories had caused trouble to these circles, which used to make the region a focus of tension in order to secure their interests and reach their goals.

At the end of his statement, Jasim stressed that in all cases, these new allegations and lies will not live long and facts will continue to live. He also stressed that Iraq, which has crushed the Iranian aggression, is able to protect its independence and safeguard its legitimacy against those who want to use the worn-out cards against its independence and sovereignty.

More on Jasim Criticism

JN1009131488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim vehemently assailed the U.S. Senate today, saying that its interference in internal Iraqi affairs is rejected, denounced, and contemptible.

In a statement to INA, Jasim said that the U.S. Senate is the last party that has the right to talk about human rights and added that Iraqis—a civilized people with old traditions and behavior inspired by lofty ideals in all of their actions—do not need a certificate from the stinky corners of international political lobbies. The minister added that the U.S. Senate does not have the right to talk about human rights, considering that the biggest extermination operation involving the use of all weapons, including chemical and biological weapons, was carried out against the South Asian people after securing its approval and with its full knowledge. The minister continued that this Senate blesses the most racist and dictatorial regime and supports the Zionist entity in the genocidal war of destitution it has been waging against the Palestinian people.

Jasim stressed that any party on earth—the U.S. Senate, the Zionist forces which affect its decisions, or any other party—will never be able to undermine Iraq's stance and the clear victory it has scored. Iraq's victory has pierced the eyes of the parties that harbor malice and hatred toward the Arab nation and that gives them feelings of disappointment and bitterness.

The minister affirmed that the U.S. Senate's approval of a draft law imposing economic measures against Iraq obviously proves the Zionist influence on [U.S.] decisionmaking, especially if we consider the fact that the country that is familiar with the details of the activities carried out in the military operations theater—namely, Turkey—has officially confirmed that Iraq has not used chemical weapons against the traitors and collaborators. He added that several official Turkish statements have been issued reiterating that these allegations were groundless. The minister said that certain U.S. groups have been disturbed after Iraq liberated its national territory and realized a clear victory over the Iranian regime in the glorious battles of liberation without meeting the vested interests of the political lobbies and the prices they receive at the expense of dignity, sovereignty, and morality. Certain circles hunt for and create opportunities to harm Iraq, which is now appreciated on the popular and official levels in the Arab homeland and the world at large.

The minister noted that the discordant voices that are raised against Iraq and the Arab nation will not change the course of great Iraq under our leader and symbolic hero Saddam Husayn. Those who have been affected by the fever of rancor and hostility toward Iraq after its great victories should understand that Iraq's sovereignty and independence will be maintained by the power of the Iraqis, their strong determination, and their high capabilities.

Following is the text of the statement:

News agencies carried reports that the U.S. Senate has approved a draft law—presented by the chairman of the foreign relations committee—to impose economic measures against Iraq. The U.S. House of Representatives is supposed to discuss the law before it will be presented to the U.S. president. These measures ban the extension of any economic facilities, new credits to Iraq, and the transfer of U.S. technology to Iraq. They also prevent the importation of Iraqi oil by the United States, and call for voting at international financial organizations against any new credits to Iraq. To justify the issuance of the draft law, the U.S. Senate claimed that it is due to Iraq's use of chemical weapons during the purging operations of traitors and agents in northern Iraq.

The culture and information minister said that the approval of the draft law by the U.S. Senate clearly proves the Zionist influence on [U.S.] decisionmaking, especially if we consider the fact that the country that is familiar with the details of the activities carried out in the military operations theater, namely Turkey, has officially confirmed that Iraq has not used chemical weapons against the traitors and collaborators, and that several official Turkish statements reiterating that these allegations were groundless have been issued.

He added: We are certain that this is not the reason behind the issuance of this law which is hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation because this stand has very deep roots that date prior to this incident. It is because some sides in the United States have been disturbed by the liberation of our national territory. They became disturbed after we achieved a great victory over the Iranian enemy in the glorious battles of liberation without meeting the vested interests of the political lobbies and the prices they receive at the expense of dignity, sovereignty, and morality at a time when certain circles hunt for and create opportunities to harm Iraq, which is now appreciated on the popular and official levels in the Arab homeland and the world at large.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim stressed that the discordant voices that are raised against Iraq and the Arab nation will not change the course of great Iraq under our leader and symbolic hero Saddam Husayn. He also stressed that those who have been affected by the fever of rancor and hostility toward Iraq after its great victories should understand that Iraq's sovereignty and independence will be maintained by the power of the Iraqis, their strong determination, and their high capabilities. Jasim added that interference in internal Iraqi affairs is rejected, denounced, and contemptible. No one on Earth—the U.S. Senate, the Zionist forces that influence its decisionmaking, or any other party—will ever be able to undermine Iraq's stance and the clear victory its sons have scored. It's victory has pierced the eyes of the parties that harbor malice and hatred toward the Arab nation and that gives them feelings of disappointment and bitterness.

Concluding, the minister said: With the approval and full knowledge of the U.S. Senate, the biggest extermination operation involving the use of all weapons, including chemical and biological weapons, was carried out against the Southeast Asian peoples. The U.S. Senate blesses the most fascist and dictatorial regimes and supports the Zionist entity in the genocidal war of destitution it has been waging against the Palestinian people. The U.S. Senate is the last party that should talk about human rights. Iraq—a civilized nation with old traditions and behavior inspired by lofty ideals in all its actions—does not need a certificate from the stinky corners of international political lobbies.

INA Cites Turkish Denial

JN1009122488 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Ankara, Sept. 10, INA—A Turkish health official, who took part in the medical examination carried on 5000 fugitives, denied the presence of any injuries caused by chemical weapons.

The health official, Dr. Safiulddin Sonmaz [name as received] director of health and cooperation in the Turkish province "Diyarbakir" said that no chemical injuries caused by chemical weapons were seen to have effected these fugitives. In a statement published by the Turkish daily TERCUMAN Dr. Sonmaz pointed out that trachoma and bronchitis were among the common illnesses suffered by these fugitives.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry announced last night that there was not a single case which would indicate Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

Mr. Nazim Bakir, spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement on the issue that, in the light of researches and medical examinations carried, Iraq's use of chemical weapons was not confirmed.

He stressed that all allegations concerning the matter are sheer lies.

'Aziz Expresses 'Amazement'

JN1009154788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 10 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed amazement at and denunciation of the U.S. Congress decision pertaining to the false allegations on the use of chemical weapons. 'Aziz said that this behavior by Congress members well-known for their Zionist leanings and anti-Arab bias is absolutely uncalled for, and those who voice such allegations have not been able to present a single proof of their claims.

Speaking to the INA mission in Geneva today, 'Aziz said that while Turkey, the state which is well-informed on this issue, has officially denied such allegations, some well-known parties have been insisting on repeating such allegations.

Aziz added: The motives behind this campaign—organized by the Zionist circles and their widespread media—are well known. These circles are disturbed because Iraq has succeeded in liberating its territory and stopping Khomeyniite expansionism, thus creating a genuine possibility for peace. Zionist circles, which are allied with Khomeyni to threaten the Arab world, are disturbed because their mean aim has not been realized. Iraq and the Arab world emerged safe and sound from this threat. Therefore, these circles are feverishly trying to distort the truth and create confusion in the region in order to prevent the establishment of peace, which will allow the people of the region to establish constructive cooperation and lead to a sound international climate that will strengthen the chances of peace and stability.

The minister said: The situation in northern Iraq is normal. What happened was that the mutineers and terrorists who betrayed the country and allied themselves with Iran against Iraq have collapsed completely after the cease-fire, exactly as Barzani collapsed in 1975. In order to cover their betrayal and political bankruptcy, they fled abroad, forcing a number of civilians to leave with them in order to create a clamor by which they can cover their bankruptcy. The Zionist circles welcomed this farcical story to organize this despicable campaign against Iraq.

Concluding, the foreign minister said: The general amnesty that the RCC issued on 6 September takes care of the problem of the civilians whom the armed insurgents forced to leave for Turkey and we hope that they will return as soon as possible.

TV Airs Anti-U.S. Slogans

JN1009161988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Baghdad Television began to carry slogans this evening vehemently assailing the United States and its contemptible and denounced interference in internal Iraqi affairs. Following are some of the slogans carried:

"To hell with the fabrications propagated by the leaders of imperialism and racial discrimination."

"Long live the struggle being waged by the minorities in the United States for the sake of regaining their legitimate rights."

"The people who triumphed over the agents of Zionism will triumph over the aggression of its allies, the Americans."

"Those who secured [Senate] seats through bribes will not harm Iraq."

Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim earlier in the day assailed the U.S. Senate vehemently: Its interference in internal Iraqi affairs is rejected, denounced, and contemptible.

The minister asserted that any party on earth—the U.S. Senate, the Zionist forces which affect its decisions, or any party whatsoever—will never be able to undermine Iraq's stance and the clear victory it has scored. Iraq's victory has pierced the eyes of the parties which harbor malice and hatred toward the Arab nation and gives them feelings of disappointment and bitterness.

The minister affirmed that the discordant voices that are hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation will not change the line chosen by great Iraq under the hero and symbol Saddam Husayn.

'Masses' Plan Demonstration

JN1009182888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1812 GMT 10 Sep

[Text] Our people's masses will stage mammoth demonstrations and will march toward the U.S. embassy in Baghdad in order to denounce the rabid move of the U.S. Senate which passed a bill presented by the Foreign Relations Committee imposing economic measures against Iraq.

Kurdish Official Denounces Stand

JN1109194988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 18[illegible] GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi Kurdish official stressed today that Iraq's Kurdish citizens are vehemently denouncing all forms of foreign interference in domestic affairs as well as attempts to impose trusteeship.

In a statement sent to President Saddam Husayn, Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir al-Naqshabandi, chairman of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, said that imperialism and Zionism are fabricating lies against Iraq to harm the splendid Iraqi victory and prevent the desired peace and achievement of security and peace in the region.

He added that the decision of the U.S. Senate—the U.S. Knesset—against Iraq is viewed as intrerference in domestic affairs and an attempt to hamper the peace process while the Iraqis are celebrating their historic victory against the forces of injustice and aggression in Qom and Tehran, represented by imposing peace on it and forcing it to sit at the negotiating table.

Hammadi on Relations With U.S., Cease-Fire

JN0909182388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Washington]

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the peace talks in Geneva are passing through a difficult stage but Iraq insists on continuing the talks. In an exclusive interview with our radio, he said Iraq will resist all attempts to end the talks in Geneva or transfer them to the United Nations in New York because the problem does not lie in the venue of the negotiations but in the difficulties facing them.

Hammadi emphasized Iraq's desire to improve relations with the United States, and ignored George Shultz' warning during Shultz' meeting with Hammadi yesterday in which Shultz linked the improvement of U.S.-Iraqi relations with a halt to what Shultz described as Iraq's use of chemical weapons against the Kurds and the violation of human rights. Hammadi merely commented: We have heard that. However, there is no reason to rush things, for everything will be discussed at the appropriate time. Hammadi said the United States plays a role just like the other five permanent members of the UN Security Council. We have seen that the U.S. stand was positive.

[Begin recording] [Sa'dun Hammadi] We do not believe the negotiations have to end. That is not sound. The negotiations have begun and must continue and end with the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 in word and spirit. The Iranian side still insists on disagreeing with the principle of the freedom of navigation. It still insists on not asking the United Nations to begin to clear the Shatt al-'Arab. Some practical measures to consolidate the cease-fire were implemented on the ground and in the air, but agreement has not been reached yet on these measures at sea.

[Huda Tawfiq] What is Iraq's stand on implementing the cease-fire at sea? How will the cease-fire at sea be implemented?

[Hammadi] We believe the cease-fire at sea must be implemented so that both sides benefit equally from maritime communications. Iraq and Iran should have equal rights to maritime communications. This cannot be achieved unless there is recognition of the freedom of navigation for all ships in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, Iran and Iraq. [end recording]

Spokesman Calls Velayati Remarks 'Inappropriate'

JN0909172488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 9 Sep (INA)—Commenting on the statement made by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati during his news conference in Geneva yesterday, the official spokesman for the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations made a statement today. He said that once again Velayati has resorted to the known method of deception and procrastination and given himself the right to speak on behalf of the UN secretary general, claiming that the UN secretary general's position is identical with Iran's position.

The spokesman added that this method is inappropriate, especially since the UN secretary general usually announces his positions through his spokesman.

Official spokesman of the Iraqi delegation added that Velayati falsified facts. This is because in the letter dated 8 August, the secretary general had clearly declared that the two sides had agreed to hold direct negotiations under his auspices as soon as the cease-fire takes effect, after reaching an agreement on the the other articles of Resolution 598, its measures, and timing.

The spokesman explained that after sending this message to both sides, the UN Security Council announced a date for the cease-fire, leaving details and final touches to the direct negotiations in Geneva.

The spokesman continued: In an effort to reach this aim, the secretary general sent a detailed paper on the regulations and commitments of the cease-fire. This paper was the topic of discussion in the two capitals with the ranking military observers of the United Nations, as a first step which should be implemented during the direct negotiations in Geneva. The secretary general personally delivered this paper to the two sides when he met with them on 25 August in Geneva.

The spokesman of the Iraqi delegation added: It is useless to assume, as the Iranian foreign minister did, that the cease-fire actually took effect on all the detailed commitments which both sides are required to observe. As has become obvious within the past 2 weeks, the two sides did not reach any agreement on this point. Until they reach an agreement on this point, logically, they cannot move on to the other items of Resolution 598.

The spokesman also pointed out that Velayati claimed that Iraq had raised other side issues and made honoring these issues a precondition to implementing the rest of the articles. He described that as merely another forgery and affirmed that Iraq moves from the perspective of a general understanding of balanced benefits for both sides while applying all articles of Resolution 598.

The spokesman added that the logic behind the Iraqi position is clear since, not guaranteeing the balanced benefits in every step, there will be no guarantee for getting rid of blackmail and pressure. In Iraq's opinion, any arrangement on the cease-fire at sea will not be complete if there is no freedom of navigation in the Straits of Hormuz and the international waters for all types of ships; the ones entering and exiting the ports of the states around the Arabian Gulf, including Iraq, and without any type of hindrance or searching.

The spokesman added: As far as Iraq is concerned, this is according to international law as provided for by the binding articles of Resolution 598. Therefore, any cease-fire arrangement will not be complete if Iraq is not assured that steps will be taken by the United Nations in the cease-fire to dredge the Shatt al-'Arab and make it safe for normal navigation without any bias to one side or the other, especially as far as the Shatt al-'Arab is concerned.

The Iraqi spokesman explained that the Shatt al-'Arab is the only Iraqi outlet to the sea and that dredging it will definitely take a long time. Even if this process had not been essential to implementing the other articles of

Resolution 598, it is the element that precedes all other elements of Resolution 598 and will continue until a peace agreement is reached through which all other pending issues will be solved. The United Nations has not been able to guarantee that the Iranians will not hamper the Shatt al-'Arab dredging process.

The official spokesman said that the Iranian regime's foreign minister, in the statement he delivered at the news conference, deliberately avoided mentioning two important factors which appeared in Saddam Husayn's letter of 6 August and which paved the way for the cease-fire: dredging the Shatt al-'Arab and freedom of navigation, which are Iraq's natural rights.

The spokesman explained that the Iranian delegation's absence from the direct negotiations sessions recently—something they are obliged to do—and the adopted style of delay which led the negotiations into one crisis after another, proves that the Iranian delegation has no decision.

The spokesman concluded that Iraq will remain true to its commitments in completing the cease-fire arrangements in all their details. As soon as that is done, Iraq will faithfully implement its commitments to reach a joint agreement on the other articles of the Security Council resolution. The Iranian foreign minister should not have any illusions that Iraq will accept any other formulation. It is better for him to report to work.

More Iranian Cease-Fire 'Violations' Reported

JN1009210888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] The Iranian forces have committed further excesses and cease-fire violations despite the repeated warnings issued by Iraq through the UN observers. INA has learned that the Iraqi forces took firm measures to tackle these Iranian violations and informed the UN observers of them.

In the special I Army Corps sector, an enemy vehicle carrying a number of enemy personnel approached within 200 meters of our forward positions at 1020 [0620 GMT] on 9 September. The vehicle returned to its positions after our units warned it. In the II Army Corps sector, the Iranian forces at 1130 on 9 September, built nine combat positions opposite our forward positions at a distance of 250-300 meters from our units' forward lines. At the same time, 20 enemy personnel planted mines and laid barbed wire in an area opposite our units. In the III Army Corps sector, a number of enemy personnel approached our forward positions at 0220 on 9 September. They were forced to flee after our units warned them. The UN observers were informed of this violation which they registered. At 1525 on the same day, the enemy laid down pipes from a number of vehicles on an enemy rampart. Later, the enemy moved the pipes across an opening on an enemy canal opposite our forward units. At 1030 on the same day, two enemy vehicles came within 500 meters of our forward units. They were carrying a number of enemy personnel. The vehicles withdrew after our units warned them. At 0655, a group of enemy personnel tried to approach our forward positions. They were forced to withdraw backward after our forces warned them. At 1050, another enemy group tried to approach our positions but it withdrew after our units in the area warned it. In the IV Army Corps sector, two enemy vehicles advanced toward our positions at 1130 on 7 September. An enemy bulldozer was seen operating in an area opposite our forward units. At 1100 on 8 September, the enemy carried out an engineering effort to set up a new rampart in an area opposite our units. In the V Army Corps sector, the enemy at 1230 set up two new positions opposite our forward units. The UN observers in Al-Sulaymaniyah were informed of this. In the VII Army Corps sector, the Iranian forces continued to carry out their engineering effort in a number of areas in this sector. At 1400 on 9 September, two enemy boats moved out of one of the wharves. They were warned by our units so they were forced to withdraw to the areas from which they came.

Further on 'Violations'

JN1109182688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—The Iranian regime's forces are continuing their cease-fire violations despite Iraq's warnings through the UN observers. INA has learned that the Iraqi Armed Forces have informed the UN observers of the Iranian forces' violations as well as of its resolute measures against these violations.

In the special I Army Corps sector at 1020 [0620 GMT], an enemy vehicle carrying a number of enemy personnel approached to within 300 meters of our forward positions. Necessary measures were taken to force it to retreat to Iranian territory. At 1840, two Iranian vehicles approached to within 400 meters of our units and withdrew after our units warned them. Another vehicle also approached within 700 meters of our units at 1850 and withdrew after our units warned it.

In the II Army Corps sector, the enemy installed a PKS machinegun and dug a communications trench and new positions at 1015 in violation of the cease-fire. At 1130, the enemy built seven combat positions opposite and 250-300 meters from our forward positions and two positions 800-900 meters from these positions in violation of the cease-fire agreement under which no side is allowed to imporove its positions.

At 1725, the enemy built two other positions opposite our units and did not stop despite our units' warnings. At 1815, an enemy officer and a number of enemy personnel tried to approach our forward positions and began to dig a position near our units as well as a control point on the road leading to our positions at about 150-200 meters.

In the III Army Corps sector, an enemy vehicle was seen at 1030 coming from the Iranian rampart and carrying a number of personnel. It stopped 500 meters from our forward positions and then withdrew after receiving a warning from our units.

At 1050, a number of enemy personnel tried to approach our units but withdrew after our units warned them. At 1855, another group of enemy personnel tried to approach our forward units but were forced to withdraw after our units took the necessary measures.

At 1825, three vehicles carrying tubes near the enemy rampart were seen. the enemy installed the tubes in an opening in the enemy trench.

In the VI Army Corps sector at 1230, the enemy built two new positions, violating the cease-fire agreement, which prevents the building of new positions.

In the VII Army Corps sector at 1400, two enemy boats moved. They withdrew to their former position after our units warned them.

In the IV Army Corps sector on 11 September, a group of enemy personnel was seen building an iron tower 20 meters high behind the enemy rampart. The UN observers, who also noticed enemy attempts to increase its positions and build a new observation post, were informed

At 1310, the UN observers noticed a large vehicle carrying a number of enemy personnel, who tried to build a new position. The UN observers confirmed this.

In the special I Army Corps sector from 0100 to 0110 enemy individuals fired shots at random and in various directions as well as intermittent ordinary and tracer bullets.

Closed-Door Session Begins in Geneva

JN1009173788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 10 Sep (INA)—A full session of Iraqi-Iranian negotiations began on a ministerial level under the auspices of Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva at 1810 local time, 2010 Baghdad time today.

The UN delegation which comprises five members headed by Eliasson entered the conference hall, the same hall in which the direct Iraqi-Iranian negotiations began on 25 August, at 1803 local time, 2003 Baghdad time. Three minutes later, the Iraqi and Iranian delegations entered the hall from two gates facing each other. The Iraqi delegation sat on the left side of the UN delegation, while the Iranian delegation sat on the right side.

The Iraqi delegation comprises 14 members headed by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; while the Iranian delegation which comprises 12 members is headed by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Iranian regime.

A selected group of journalists and news agency photographers and radio and TV cameramen, including the INA team, were allowed to stay for several minutes in the hall to take photos of the session. Then, they were asked to leave. The session began behind closed doors at 1810 local time, 2010 Baghdad time.

Eliasson Holds Separate Talks

JN1209125488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1222 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 12 Sep (INA)—Ambassador Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, sponsoring the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, continued his unofficial consultations separately with both sides last night and this morning. This was announced to journalists this afternoon by Mrs Therese Gestaut, spokesman for the United Nation's European headquarters in Geneva. She said there is a possibility that another session will be held later today.

Minister Says 3,962 Kurds Return After Amnesty

JN0909193388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has announced that large numbers of Kurdish citizens and their families have returned to the homeland in response to the RCC decision granting a general and complete amnesty to all Kurdish citizens inside and outside Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the minister said the homeland welcomes all those who want to work sincerely, honorably, and patriotically together with its sincere and honorable citizens who are loyal to great Iraq and its historic leadership represented by the leader President Saddam Husayn—a leadership that has achieved for the Iraqi people their clear victory over their enemies the covetous invaders. Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that 3,962 people have so far returned to the homeland since the amnesty was issued on 6 September.

More on Returning Kurds

JN1109115088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Dahuk, Northern Iraq 11 Sep (INA)—It was announced here today that many Kurdish citizens are gathering on the border in the two areas of Ibrahim al-Khalil on the border with Turkey and Halabjah-Nowsud on the border with Iran to return to Iraq.

In a statement to an INA press team an official Iraqi source said that 11,517 citizens had returned by 2200 [1800 GMT] on 10 September. He said reception teams are preparing to provide the necessary services to the new returnees and to meet their needs.

Iraqi officials said that a large number of Kurdish civilians were compelled by the traitors among the collapsing rebels in the north to cross the border so that they can be used in the tendentious campaign against Iraq. However, these civilians will return to their country to live normal lives.

Official Iraqi sources in the border area said that many returning Kurds are continuing their way across the Ibrahim al-Khalil Post on the border with Turkey, while returnees to the homeland are also gathering at the Halabjah-Nowsud post.

The reception committees are working round the clock to receive the returnees, arrange for their housing and needs, and provide them with food, health and social services.

The RCC had issued on 6 September a general amnesty for Kurdish citizens outside Iraq.

Oil Tanker Returns Through Strait of Hormuz

JN1009073788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Iraqi oil tanker "'Ayn Zalah" returned to a southern Iraqi port at dawn today after a 20-day voyage, during which it delivered a shipment of Iraqi crude oil.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Oil told INA that the tanker crossed the Strait of Hormuz to Iraqi territorial waters after it had unloaded the first consignment of Iraqi oil at Aden port, which amounted to 17,000 tonnes.

The tanker sailed from Iraqi ports through the Arabin Gulf and international waterways toward its set targets along with its sister commercial ship "Al-Idrisi" a few hours after the cease-fire became effective on 20 August.

Government Said Aware of U.S. Spying

TA0909122588 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 9 Sep 88 p 1

[Report by James Levene]

[Text] The United States embassy here monitors local civilian and military radio transmissions, including telephone calls, using high-powered equipment, a foreign source close to the situation told THE NATION yesterday.

The disclosure comes in the wake of statements last month from an unnamed US Justice Department source, described as a "senior official," that Israel continues to spy in the US despite assurances given by Jerusalem at the time of the Pollard scandal.

According to an article in THE WASHINGTON POST, the official said that Israel's intelligence activities in the US are second only to those of Soviet-bloc nations.

He did not elaborate but said Israel's covert operations appear to be driven mostly by its desire to build up its defense industries, both for its own security and for foreign military sales. "It (Israel) is very active," the official was quoted as saying.

In a related matter, informed Israeli sources dismissed as nonsense a report that the CIA had recruited an Israeli military informer during the 1982 Lebanese war. "We looked into that story," one highly-placed source said, "and we found there was nothing in it."

All Israeli security sources consulted categorically rejected the allegation that Israel continues to spy in the United States.

"We gave strict instructions that there must be no espionage in the United States, and we checked and double-checked to make sure the message was received right down the line," one security source said.

The Justice Department official quoted by THE WASHINGTON POST cited three cases in which Israel purchased or tried to purchase military technology illegally from US companies. However, Israeli sources said the transactions all happened before the Pollard affair and, as one source put it: "It is irresponsible to mention these cases in the same breath as the Pollard case." The Israeli sources took the view that in all three cases the Israeli companies or agencies involved were unaware that the sale was illegal.

Regarding allegations of US spying in Israel, a foreign source said: "This is known to the Israeli authorities and is regarded as part of the game. They have a CIA man here just as they have in every other country. We know that the political department at the embassy has been keeping an eye on them since 1967, but this is the kind of thing you can live with."

Meanwhile, a US State Department official reached in Washington, said he had no information on the allegations.

Egyption Gunboat Holds Tourist Boat in Red Sea

TA0909165988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] It has been reported from Elat that the Egyptian gunboat "Timsah" has indeed rammed the Israeli vessel "Maya," boring a hole in the ship's hull. The water pipes broke and the ship is flooded. The ship's crew is now busy pumping out the water. Two women who were on the boat are suffering from shock.

Ahmad al-Masri, the Egyptian consul in Elat, arrived at Coral Island and instructed the Egyptian Coast Guard to allow the tourists to board the ship.

Our correspondent in Elat reports that there are 30 travelers on the ship; 15 of them are Israelis and 15 are tourists from Germany and France. Along with them are five crew members.

About 30 minutes ago the ship's owner, Arye Eliyahu, managed to contact the captain, Moshe Sahar. The captain said: We are in serious trouble. He noted that the Egyptians have jammed radio communications. They also tried to force the travelers to sign forms saying they have no claims against the Egyptians.

The captain said that the Egyptian soldiers stood on board the gunboat wielding guns, threatening the passengers. They threw ropes onto the Israeli ship, tied it to the gunboat, and towed it to their base on Coral Island. The Israeli ship owner claims that the vessel was intercepted while cruising some 1.5 km from the coast. The Egyptians maintain that it was sailing 300 meters from the shore and that this is why it was stopped. Elat Mayor Rafi Hochman managed to convince ship owners in the Elat marina not to sail to Tabah for the time being as a sign of protest against the Egyptians.

Rabin, Shamir Comment

TA1109124988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said last week's incident in which an Egyptian patrol boat rammed an Israeli pleasure boat in the Gulf of Elat and detained it should not have happened between countries which have signed a peace treaty. Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir condemned the Egyptians' behavior as uncivilized, vandalism, and showing a disregard for human life. Jack Katzenell reports:

Speaking after this morning's Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Rabin was restrained in his reaction to the Egyptian soldiers' behavior. He was sure the Egyptian Government was not interested in causing such incidents, and he did not wish to point to a trend.

[Begin Rabin recording] I am really sorry about this event. It shouldn't happen between countries that signed a peace treaty and make a lot of efforts to maintain the peace between themselves. I'm satisfied to the effect that after the intervention of Jerusalem to Cairo the boat was released with all the passengers and the crew. [end recording]

Now Israel and Egypt have to find a way of preventing such incidents, Rabin said.

Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir was much more outspoken. He said the Egyptians' behavior gave him an uneasy feeling, for example, for the future of tourism at Tabah if it is handed over to Egypt.

[Begin Sharir recording] I think that it's a very bad case of vandalism, of disregard for human life, an uncivilized way of behavior, contrary to our peace agreement and peace understanding on both sides to live together in peace and understanding.... [end recording]

Sharir pointed out that all the cases of irregular behavior towards tourists since the peace treaty have been perpetrated by the Egyptians. There had been not one single case against Egyptian tourists in Israel.

The incident with the pleasure boat was not mentioned this morning by Defense Minister Rabin when he gave his weekly briefing to the Cabinet. He did report on the clash in southern Lebanon in which four terrorists were caught by Israeli troops, and on the Army's big operation in Qalqilyah against Palestinians involved in the uprising. The Cabinet also heard an explanation of the conditions under which plastic bullets may be used.

'Alarm' Expressed Over Iraqi Chemical Warfare

TA0909121888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has expressed alarm over Iraq's use of chemical weapons against Kurdish civilians, and has warned the international community against apathy. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] The Foreign Ministry statement says: Israel is most alarmed by Iraq's use of chemical weapons in its current military drive against the Kurds. The statement recalls earlier incidents of this kind, such as the Iraqi bombing of the Kurdish town of Halabjah in March, when 5,000 people were killed. The statement also expresses concern over the proliferation of chemical weapons, particularly in Iraq, Iran, and Syria, and warns the international community that if it shows indifference toward Iraq's actions against the Kurds, Iraq and other countries are likely to draw the conclusion that the use of chemical weapons is worthwhile.

In this communique, the Foreign Ministry does not actually condemn the international community, and I am unofficially informed that this is because the United States, Britain, and Amnesty International have condemned Iraq. However, the Non-Aligned Conference in Nicosia has not even mentioned the matter, sources in Jerusalem point out, and there has been no condemnation from the United Nations.

The Jerusalem communique expressed approval of Turkey's action in allowing over 100,000 Kurdish refugees from Iraq to enter Turkey. [end recording]

Shamir: Negotiations With PLO 'Inconceivable'

TA1109054988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The prime minister has said that the PLO will have no part in any peace negotiations. Any dialogue with that organization must be considered inconceivable. These remarks are part of the special interview the prime minister has granted Voice of Israel on the occasion of Rosh Hashana [Jewish New Year]. The prime minister urged the establishment of a Palestinian representation for negotiations, stressing that the Arab countries can be instrumental in achieving that goal. The full interview will be broadcast tomorrow [at 1100 GMT].

Rabin Interviewed on Syrian Threat, Uprising

TA1109095288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Sep 88 p 4

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by David Landau and Yehuda Litani; date and place unknown]

[Text] The purpose of the IDF, says Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, is to deter, or, failing that, to demonstrate to any enemy that he cannot achieve his goals by the use of force.

The IDF demonstrated this effectively to the Egyptian and Syrian enemy in 1973, and the result was a negotiating process and a peace treaty with Egypt.

Now, using different means, and at infinitely less cost in blood and resources, the IDF is called upon to demonstrate the same lesson to a different enemy: the leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

Their goals, says Rabin, are essentially no different from those of Egypt and Syria in 1973, or of the terrorist organizations which still persist in their cruel assaults: to achieve a limited military gain by use of force—and thereby force Israel to change (that is, weaken) its positions in advance of a negotiating process.

It is that same goal, he says, which motivates Syria today. "If the Syrians have an aim in using their army, it is first and foremost to recapture the Golan Heights—and then launch a diplomatic process." (Merely achieving "strategic parity" with Israel is not a sufficient military achievement in Syrian eyes, he says, since it would be "hypothetical, untried, inconclusive.")

"In 1973, the Egyptians and Syrians did not seek to bring about the destruction of Israel at one fell swoop. They were not out to conquer Tel Aviv, but rather to reach a certain line in Sinai and hold it—confident that this success would radically change the political situation and furnish them with an excellent point of departure for political negotiations.

"But they did not achieve their aim, at least as they had planned it..."

Similarly Rabin is determined that the Palestinians today will not achieve their aim by the use of what he terms "civilian violence."

He believes, moreover, that the IDF is well on the way to putting down the uprising (Rabin prefers to avoid the word "intifada") [uprising]. Pressed to cite examples from recent history of a regular army holding down a popular uprising indefinitely, Rabin replies: "By using all the various means at our disposal—military presence and military operations, legal measures including the application of the Emergency Regulations, administrative and economic means—we are gradually achieving the results that the deployment of armed strength can achieve against a civilian uprising.

"I don't say no stone will fly or bottle explode (just as I never said no more Katyusha rockets would fall...). And I have never ordered the IDF to 'solve the problem'—because such problems cannot be solved by military means alone.

"But what I say to the army is: first, attain a significant abatement in the level of violence, a situation of relative calm, and second, ensure that the civil administration functions and provides its services to the Palestinian population."

Rabin points to three developments which prove, he says, that his policies are working:
—The hallmark of the uprising used to be mass demonstrations. These are now almost non-existent. We have put a stop to them.
—Practical cooperation between the Palestinians in the areas and the Israeli Arab community has greatly declined. I don't say that the Israeli Arabs care less or identify less than before; but the Green Line divides them.
—We discern signs of real fatigue among sections of the Palestinian population. I don't say their motivation is draining away; but the leaders recognize that there is a limit to what they can demand, and they are reducing their demands.

Rabin denies that the intifada has apparently reached a plateau of violent confrontation, perhaps less ferocious than in the early months but nevertheless pervasive and firmly entrenched. "We have pushed the plateau down," he says, "and we will push it farther down."

He dismisses with contempt the "election sloganeering" of Likud minister Yitzhaq Moda'i who proclaimed that a homogeneous right-wing coalition would curb the uprising in one week.

"Well, that's progress from when they were going to settle the terrorist problem in Lebanon in 48 hours," Rabin comments drily. "Six years later the problem's still with us."

As for Tehiya's assertion that if only 1,200 leaders and activists were deported the intifada would die, Rabin points out that the removal of far larger numbers of key people from the arena into jails and detention camps—5,600 are at present incarcerated; 18,000 have been detained for various periods since the uprising began on December 9—has not quenched popular zeal. Tehiya's ideas betray, he says, "a total lack of understanding of what is happening within the Palestinian community."

Responsible as he is for the army, a vast budget, and constant confrontation with massive potential threats from the outside, Rabin says he cannot help feeling "that there's a huge disproportion in the public mind—between preoccupation with the Palestinian uprising and the real (military) threat.

"Not that I disparage or play down the uprising. But from the pure perspective of defence, of Israel's national security, the military threat from without is of a different dimension of significance.

"Thus, we have set ourselves limits on how much we invest, in terms of IDF forces, in combating the intifada. Since the start of the current working year (April 1), we have not permitted (anti-uprising operations) to derogate from the regular army's ongoing preparations for war, or from its level of constant readiness on the Golan Heights, or from its anti-terrorist deployment in the North.

"And of course the air force and the navy are entirely uninvolved (in the intifada). Their efforts are all focused solely on preparing for war. The main function of the armoured corps too is to prepare for war—and we don't allow ourselves to forget it.

"So the public perception (of the relative significance of the intifada in terms of national security and defence priorities) is not always right, though I appreciate that it stems from concern over individual security.

"Yet fatality figures for Jews in the territories have been *lower* this year than in ordinary years. In Gaza, no one has been killed since December 9. On the West Bank there was the soldier, Moshe Katz in Bethlehem, Tirza Porat, and now the girl (Ziva Goldovsky) who sought peace and supported the Palestinians, whose body was found near Al-Birah. Add to that the woman who was murdered in Shafir (near Gaza) and the man on Moshav Sheqef—and you still have fewer fatalities than in a 'normal year.'

"Of course, that part of the reason is that Jews simply don't visit the territories as they used to. No one's wandering around the garages of Gaza any more these days.

"But the fact is that the weapons of the uprising—the stones and bottles—though they too can kill, are not as lethal as guns and knives.

"Not that they don't have these weapons. We have found grenades, Kalashnikovs and pistols in caches both on the West Bank and in Gaza. They have always had some weapons, and they still have them."

The policy, says Rabin, is two-pronged: to crush the violence, and to root out the 'popular committees.' He offers some statistics: "Some 80 per cent of the violence today is stone-linked—throwing and erecting barriers. The rest comprises incendiary bottles, assaults and violent demonstrations.

"We respond to the stones with various means, including gas, rubber bullets, and more recently plastic bullets. Soon we hope to have all officers trained to hit stone-throwers—outside the minimal safety range—with these plastic bullets. Today the regulations limit them to shooting only at the main organizers or instigators of a violent incident; they are not allowed to fire plastic bullets at every stone-thrower.

Parallel with this, we exact surety-bonds of NIS [New Israeli shekels] 1,500 from the fathers of young first offenders. We hope thereby to engage the family's economic interest in preventing a recurrence.

"As for the 'popular committees', they have now been outlawed and we can prosecute for membership; we use in addition administrative detention (currently 2,600); and selective deportation."

Rabin vigorously defends his use of the term selective—even in the context of the latest order expelling 25 activists from the territories. "Years ago, there used to be hundreds expelled in one year." (Altogether close to 1,000 persons have been deported since the Six Day War, nearly 800 of them in the period 1970-1973.)

In the past, the deportees were usually involved in hostile or terrorist activity. But Rabin says that applies to most of the present deportees too. "Of the 25, 17 have served prison terms (five of them were released under the deal with Jibril)—and then returned to their illegal activities. Four others were in administrative detention. Only four are 'new' cases."

The minister shows such familiarity with every detail of the intifada that it is plain he devotes most of his own time to dealing with it. How does that square with the relatively low place he gives it on the scale of national security priorities?

In his reply, Rabin allows a hint of the army's early failures and ongoing frustrations, to creep in. "In the north, for instance," he says, "we have put in place a system that works. It requires thousands of soldiers, a security zone, a South Lebanese Army, offensive actions beyond the zone from time to time. But all told, we've found a way that works—despite the constant burden on the IDF and the heavy cost in blood. We have lost 11 men to date.

"The uprising, on the other hand, was a new problem for the army which had never been trained to handle it. Moreover—because we want to avoid disturbing the regular army's preparations and deployment against Syria, and its anti-terror operation in the north—we (now) use reservist soldiers in rotation every three of four weeks, and that naturally impairs their effectiveness.

"And there are the constant political and international repercussions...Hence the need for constant attention and preoccupation on my part."

Turning to the broader strategic issues, Rabin poses the key question with stark simplicity: Is war with Syria avoidable?

"Our approach is that war must be made avoidable. My overriding goal as minister of defence is to avoid war by deterring war. Of course, it's not entirely in our hands. But our primary duty is to sharpen the deterrent strength of the IDF, and thereby ensure that if war is nevertheless forced upon us, we win as convincingly and as speedily as possible.

"My assessment of 'strategic parity' is that Syria, on its own, has not reached it and is far from reaching it. But since logic is not the dominant factor in deciding events in this region, one cannot be sure that out of mistaken considerations Syria might not decide to start a war... Today and for the next year or two, this is the main military threat facing Israel.

"I for one do not accept speculation either that progress towards peace would 'oblige' the Syrians to launch a war, or that the present situation (of diplomatic deadlock) 'obliges' the Syrians to set a date for launching a war.

"Israel today has a good deterrent capability vis-a-vis the Syrian military threat. But, since we cannot rely on the logic of deterrence, I always stress the need for overall watchfulness, for intelligence alertness, and for constant battle-readiness on the Golan Heights."

Now Rabin focuses on Iraq. "It's too early to tell how the cease-fire will develop. Even if it does evolve into a peace settlement, it will take a long time for the mutual suspicions to subside, for Iraq to feel free to consider sending troops elsewhere.

"We have to view things in a perspective of three to five years. Building up our own strength, increasing our forces, will take that kind of time-span too.

"Certainly when we approach the next budgetary year we will be looking to the need for more money for long-term force-building.

"In this connection, I would mention that the cancellation of the Lavi, and the orders we placed for F-16's and some F-15's instead, will result in a significant enhancement of the air force's strength at least two years earlier than had been planned. Delivery will begin in 1991, whereas the Lavi delivery date would have been 1993 at the earliest.

"Of course force-building does not focus on the air force alone. The number of Merkava tanks that we can deploy, for instance, will ultimately depend on the budgetary resources made available to us."

Where does the Arrow ground-to-air missile programme fit into Israel's planning and thinking?

Rabin: "The Iran-Iraq war demonstrated the effect of ground-to-ground missiles unleashed on non-military targets. There is a thesis that the 200 missiles that fell on Tehran critically influenced the resistance and resilience of the Iranian people—despite the fanatical and despotic regime there.

"Iran had no credible deterrent capacity: no (remaining) air force, no other means, which I shall not specify but which Israel does [preceeding word in italics] have as a deterrent against Syria or against any Arab state that might think of using ground-to-ground missiles.

"Our capacity to hit the Syrian rear, and Syrian launch-sites, is many times greater than the Syrians' capacity to hit our rear. That is the crucial difference from the Iran-Iraq situation."

By "rear," Rabin elucidates, "I mean the capital city and its population—just as in the Iran-Iraq war the target was not industry or power-production but rather the morale and will to resist of the population (of Tehran).

"What we do not have," the defence minister continues, "is missile-interception capability.

"The Arrow Project is not (at this stage) a weapons system development programme. It was initiated more than two years ago, as part of Israel's cooperation with the U.S. SDI programme, where we undertook a role in ATBM (anti-tactical ballistic missiles). I knew there would be developments in this area—and that's why we sought this role of developing technologies to demonstrate a capacity to intercept tactical ballistic missiles.

"It's a two-to-three-year programme that is just getting under way. The funding is $158 million—85 per cent of it American money, and very little of that taken from the U.S. aid package to Israel.

"At the end of this period, we hope to be able to prove, by means of demonstration, a technological capacity to intercept such missiles. Then, a great deal more time and money would need to be invested to actually develop a weapons system—which is a decision we have not yet taken. For the next three to five years the Arrow does not represent an interception weapons system.

"Meanwhile, a system of this kind does exist in the U.S. army, the Patriot, which is extremely expensive and provides partial solutions to the problem. We have not decided to acquire that at this stage, because it is so dauntingly expensive."

Rabin 'Adopting' Yariv-Shem-Tov Formula for Talks

TA1109095988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Sep 88 pp A1, 2

[Report on interview of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Ya'aqov Erez; date and place unknown]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in an exclusive interview with MA'ARIV that he is "prepared for negotiations with any Palestinian or group of Palestinians who say that 'the Palestinian covenant is not our Koran'; who accept Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 as a sole basis to solve all the components of the Arab conflict; who renounce violence and terrorism, and who would be prepared for negotiations with us." Rabin added that this case, he would be prepared to ignore the background of the Palestinian representatives.

In reply to a question on whether his remarks mean he is ready to meet with PLO representatives who accept such conditions, the defense minister replied: "I differentiate between speculative questions and taking a stand. This is my position, and on that basis I will speak with any Palestinian or any group of Palestinians, and do not ask me what this or that means. Whoever comes and accepts these conditions, I will speak with him.

"Did you notice that I am not demanding recognition of Israel? I do not require recognition of Israel. The problem is not one of Israel being recognized or not, but the creation of a reality and the forming of a basis for peace negotiations and a readiness to sit down to peace negotiations." In saying that, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is in fact adopting the Yariv-Shem-Tov formula for talks with any Palestinian element, including the PLO, on conditions referred to by the defense minister.

Referring to IDF activities in the territories, the defense minister said: "One feels uncomfortable when seeing the huge IDF dealing with the problem of stonethrowing in the territories, but when the issue is whether to give in or to stand firm, I reply categorically—there is no choice but to stand firm."

In reply to another question, Rabin said that he would oppose any motion, already raised by various elements, to take away the right of inhabitants of the territories to appeal to the High Court of Justice against deportations and administrative detentions.

Shomron Comments on 'Preemptive' Attack on Syria

TA1109124288 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
11 Sep 88 p 18

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by Hana Zemer, Tali Zelinger, Tuvya Mendelson, Amnon Dankner, Amir Neuman, Amir Oren, and Yoram Peri; at DAVAR's office, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [DAVAR] There have recently been numerous speculations about a possible war between Israel and Syria in the not-too-distant future. Were we Al-Asad, we would think Israel was planning a preemptive war against us. Are the Syrians not getting the same impression?

[Shomron] Are you asking whether a war is possible? It certainly is. Syria is preparing itself for war, its concept is clear. There is no way to arrive at any sort of agreement which would also be acceptable to the Syrians through persuasion, consequently, the only possible way is war. However, it is a long way from this fundamental concept to a decision to start a war. Anybody launching a war expects it to yield political results, even far-reaching ones, or else he would not embark on such a venture. Therefore, this is not exactly a purely military decision, but first and foremost a political decision. If you are asking me whether Syria is on the verge of making war, or has already made such a decision and has set the date for a war, I do not think that is the case.

[DAVAR] The question was: Among all the considerations you listed, does Al-Asad not take into account, and he is intelligent enough to do so, that perhaps it would be best for him to take us by surprise rather than wait for the war he senses we are getting ready for?

[Shomron] Al-Asad should certainly be anxious about an Israeli decision to launch a preemptive strike similar to the ones we launched in 1965 and 1967, but did not launch in 1973. We are aware of the differences in terms of the military cost—I doubt that there was any political wisdom in the fact that we waited in 1973 (I do not want to get into an argument on this issue)—and I think Al-Asad must take this into account. When I talk about a preemptive strike, I mean a preemptive strike. In other words, as soon as we feel we are on a collision course, on the way to an inevitable war, he should certainly start getting anxious.

[DAVAR] Do you see such a scenario as imminent?

[Shomron] No, I do not think there is a specific date.

[DAVAR] If war were to break out with Syria it could entail a strike on the civilian population by means of long-range surface-to-surface missiles, possibly equipped with chemical warheads. Do you think the Army would be capable of both providing for, and assisting the civilian population? How do you assess the ability of the civilian population to withstand such a war?

[Shomron] I suppose that regardless of whether we initiate the war or not, the threat to the civilian population will exist in one form or another. The question is how much to invest in the defense of the civilian population, and on what. I also suppose that any war of ours must be based on the consensus that war is truly inevitable, has already occurred, or is about to occur. This is also important in terms of the endurance of the civilian population. Our ability would be diminished in any war that does not enjoy national consensus, and all the more so in a war with Syria.

The ability of the Arabs to strike at the civilian population increased after they acquired surface-to-surface missiles with the capability (if not now, then in the future) of carrying chemical warheads. The response to that is neither simple nor unequivocal. One answer is to block the system and ensure that the missile does not reach Israel, just as the Americans are doing in their Strategic Defense Initiative. This requires not only time, but also a huge investment. This money would come at the expense of our offensive weapons. The outcome of a war can only be decided through an offensive, and not by defense. Anybody investing all his resources in defense might be left without a deterrent ability.

Therefore, we must take a three-way approach: defense of the civilian population, strengthening of our offensive ability, and long-term development of anti-missile defenses. The defense of the civilian population is based on the ability to provide an early warning, even in terms of minutes. Even a short notice can change the outlook of the battlefield, particularly when chemical weapons are involved, because in urban areas it is enough to shut doors and windows and wear a mask. Doing some or even one of these steps would be enough to significantly reduce the effect. We are going to distribute gas masks and other items, and make them more accessible to the public. That does not mean that we are going to give a mask to each person. After all, we know our people and we know that such equipment would not last long if we were to distribute it to everybody. It would soon be used for Purim costumes, and in demonstrations here and there. On the other hand, we will make it more accessible so that it can be distributed much faster.

We are also acquiring the appropriate offensive weapons. Of course, long-term development concerning interception of missiles continues in conjunction with the United States. I suppose that we would not use this type of weapon to hermetically seal the entire State of Israel, but only particularly critical points. We would probably use such a weapon to intercept missiles en route to targets in Israel.

[DAVAR] Are you implying that the possibility of a political move with the Syrians that is not preceded by a military move is totally nonexistent?

[Shomron] No, I did not say that, options do exist. I only said that the Syrians today believe they will not attain their political minimum through concessions on the part of Israel, and that is why they perceive a military move as inevitable. That is their basic perception, but I am not saying that a political option is nonexistent.

[DAVAR] When it comes to Syria, a political option means talking about issues such as a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

[Shomron] I do not want to go into that. The consensus is that we do not discuss this matter.

[DAVAR] A parallel can be drawn from the question of deterrence to the question of early warning. Although the latter relies on what you describe as defensive components, it detracts from the offensive power. To what extent should Israel invest in expensive intelligence early warning systems that cost hundreds of millions of dollars? Is it worth it?

[Shomron] Were we not to invest in intelligence early warning we would have to invest in more troops that would have to kept on stand-by or doing reserve duty constantly. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] Would a lenient approach in the territories not be more productive than a heavy-handed one?

[Shomron] The problem here is a matter of dosage, and that is hard to define. Some people have told us on more than one occasion: If you had mowed down a few hundred at the beginning of the intifada [uprising], there would have been quiet. I say that is not true, because it would have boomeranged against us not only here, but also outside Israel. By the same token, those who think a lenient approach would have achieved anything are also wrong. We are always giving them an alternative. Those who do not want to join the riots have the alternative: Go to work in Israel or sit at home; do not take part in the riots and do not get hurt. Those who join the riots, which are partly directed against the army and certainly are against the law, must know that there is a price involved. There is no other possibility.

[DAVAR] But people are being dragged out of their homes to paint over grafitti and clear roads.

[Shomron] As a rule, there is no collective punishment. True, if grafitti is painted on the walls of someone's home, we think that in most cases he could have prevented it if he had wanted to. That is true in most but not all cases, when people in the vicinity are hurt. One cannot just say: I was just standing there. This guy was spraying grafitti behind my back, and I did not see him. Or say: stone barriers were placed near my house, but I was not involved. That may be true in some cases, but in most cases it is not. Therefore, it is very difficult to make such fine distinctions. At the same time, however, we do make such a distinction in our policy. We try very hard, so those who do not want to or decide not to join the violence against the IDF or break the law in any other way should be allowed to live peacefully. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] The settlers are a factor which hinders and alters your activities in the field, some of which stem from the fact that they live there. They do as they please and give you a hard time. Could you assess their strength?

[Shomron] I would like to say that the bulk of our activities stems from the situation caused by the fact that many Israeli settlements are located among Arab villages and along roads which are also used by local residents over a large area. Many of the roads go through the center of Arab villages. This creates friction and requires a large number of soldiers to keep the roads safe. All the rest is relatively marginal.

[DAVAR] If there are no political changes and the intifada continues more or less along the same lines for a long period of time, will the army be able to cope?

[Shomron] I believe that even if worse comes to worst, and the uprising continues for a long time we will manage to lower its profile, and we will need fewer troops. You must also bear in mind that this popular struggle does not have infinite resources. I do not think the motivation will change. Some of those involved will obviously step up their activities, but the majority needs hope and some kind of light at the end of the tunnel in order to go on. Already today we see that some of them have their doubts, and they are asking, almost demanding, that the PLO translate the present situation—their suffering and sympathy from the outside—into some tangible, political achievement. It is not all that obvious that the present situation will continue for a long time. A political process may start, there may be a political declaration, or a way may be found to what is being called a Palestinian state. Again, this opens many possibilities. It is very hard to give an unequivocal answer to this question. The IDF is preparing for the possibility that the struggle may yet continue for a long time in terms of lowering the profile, cutting inputs, resources, and the personnel we are forced to devote to this issue.

[DAVAR] As part of the assessment of the implications of political processes on military problems, has the army been asked whether it could live with a Palestinian state, and with what kind of state at that?

[Shomron] The army has not been asked. In my opinion, given the fact that the territories are in the center of a public-political debate and being the issue of the upcoming elections, such a question cannot be asked until after the elections. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM Interviews Rabin, Weizman on PLO

NC1109100288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that there can be no peace in the Middle East without addressing the Palestinian problem.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, Rabin asserted that the Labor Party, which he represents, seeks peace on the eastern borders and noted that peace can be achieved with Jordan and the Palestinians together but cannot be achieved with either one separately. He added: If Jordan is not present at the first stage, who can negotiate with the Palestinians? Rabin explained that he means by the Palestinians residents of the occupied territories, as it is inconceivable that they would not participate in negotiations to determine their fate and future.

Replying to a question on what the negotiations will be about—withdrawal or an independent state—Rabin said they will be about peace on the eastern borders. He said that the Labor Party today is opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan and noted that if he agrees to negotiate with the PLO this would mean that he supports a Palestinian state. He added: Therefore, I support negotiations with the Palestinians but against negotiations with the PLO. The Israeli defense minister pointed out that he does not expect the Arab countries to agree on negotiations or to accept the Israeli position, declaring that he does not agree with the Palestinians' positions, which he described as extremist.

Commenting on peace with Egypt, Rabin said that maintaining peace with Egypt now is better than war, and he noted that although hopes for normalization have not been achieved, a cold peace is better than war.

Meanwhile, 'Ezer Weizman, minister without portfolio in the Israeli Government, has expressed his country's readiness to negotiate with the PLO provided it recognizes Israel's existence on the basis of UN Resolutions Nos 242 and 338.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, Weizman said that talking to the PLO is better than looking for moderate Palestinians to talk to.

On the idea of declaring a Palestinian government-in-exile, Weizman said: The establishment of a government-in-exile is not important as far as I am concerned. It would be better for there to be dialogue with a Palestinian leadership that will recognize Israel.

On how the Labor Party with which he is affiliated would deal with the uprising should it win in the coming Israeli elections, Weizman said: A political solution is our way, and we would not wait until the uprising stops.

Weizman would not comment on Rabin's style in dealing with the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. However, he said: I am sad about these incidents. He also indicated that the situation is very difficult and calm cannot be restored without tarnishing mankind's image.

Interview With Jewish-PLO 'Peace Activist'

TA1109090388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Sep p 20

[Report by Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpt] Washington—After talks with senior PLO officials, American Jewish peace activist Dr. Jerome Segal has predicted that a Palestinian "Declaration of Independence" will be issued before the end of this year.

Segal of the University of Maryland said yesterday that the PLO has established two committees in Tunis to draft the statement which would lead to a "provisional government of Palestine."

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Segal said the declaration would cite the 1947 UN partition resolution which called for the creation of an Arab and a Jewish state in Palestine.

Segal said that the PLO saw the resolution as a basis for the "political legitimacy" of a Palestinian state, but would offer to negotiate new boundaries for the state alongside Israel.

He said the PLO's legal committee, chaired by Dr. Anis al-Qasim, and its political committee, chaired by Khalid al-Hasan, were also drafting what the PLO has called "a new political programme" designed to achieve an independent Palestinian state.

"Nothing is yet set in concrete," Segal said, pointing out that the exact date for the next meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) has not even been firmly set.

He said that over the course of four days in Tunis, he met with 'Arafat, Al-Qasim, Al-Hasan, Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf), considered a hardliner, and other PLO officials.

Segal, who has written his own manuscript calling for a "two-state" solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, has met with various Israeli political figures here as well, including Abba Eban and Shim'on Peres aide Nimrod Novik.

Before leaving for the Middle East, Segal said he met with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and was planning to meet later this week in Washington with Murphy again, although he insisted that he was not serving as any unofficial U.S. intermediary to the PLO.

"I see myself more as an intermediary between American and Israeli Jews and the PLO," he said. "That's how the PLO sees me, too." [passage omitted]

Islamic Leader Remarks on Uprising, PLO

TA1009113988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Differences between the Islamic Resistance Movement and the national bodies in the territories have become more acute in the wake of remarks made by the spiritual leader of the Islamic organizations in the Gaza Strip.

In an interview to be broadcast this evening on Israeli Television's Arabic-language program, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin says that the uprising began at the initiative of the Islamic organizations, and that all other organizations merely joined it later. He describes the communist factions as infidels, and he criticizes the PLO. Shaykh Yasin says that if Israel would recognize the rights of the Palestinian people, the Islamic organizations would enter into a dialogue. This is contrary to the prevalent views that the extremist Muslims want a religious Muslim state over all of Eretz Yisra'el.

Army Urges Deporting Popular Committee Members

TA0909132688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, has said that the entire formal organization of the uprising in the Gaza Strip has been apprehended. Its operation was divided into regions and subregions.

Gen Mordekhay added that new committees may be established to replace those already exposed, but since the chief activists have been detained, there is no doubt that the new committees' quality and ability will be substantially inferior.

The commander noted that the security forces will recommend that the detained committee members be deported.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Hand Grenade Thrown in Gaza

TA1009215488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] This evening a hand grenade was thrown in Gaza at a group of local residents. One man was killed, and another three were wounded. So far it is not clear who threw the grenade or what the background of the event is.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that today two physicians were attacked in Khan Yunus by two masked men who sprayed the doctors' faces with acid.

Our correspondent reports that today in the Hebron District the body of a Nuba village resident was found. It was established that he was shot. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the death.

The body of a local resident was found in the Nabulus casbah. He was stabbed to death this morning, and his body was later taken to the casbah. During the investigation it became apparent that he was one of the men released in the Jibril deal. Nabulus residents suspected that he was a collaborator. Another suspected collaborator with the authorities was buried today in the village of Sinjil north of Ramallah. His body was found 2 days ago in a nearby orchard.

5 Injured in Al-Shati' Camp

TA1109105688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Five local residents were injured by IDF gunfire during disturbances this morning in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The injuries, which were mostly mild, occurred as IDF soldiers dispersed local rioters. The IDF is now investigating the incident.

Disturbances also took place in other parts of the Gaza Strip, but no information regarding injuries has been received. Commercial life in the area is partially active. This was reported by our correspondent in the south 'Ezra Yanuv.

Janin Health Official Stabbed

TA1109115688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The director of health for the Janin district was stabbed today by an assailant who accused him of being a collaborator. With this and other news from the territories, Steve Rodan: (Ahmad Na'if al-Statiyya), the director of the Janin district for health, was taken to 'Afula Hospital where he is described in moderate condition. This morning (Al-Statiyya) was stabbed by a lone assailant. Security sources say he was stabbed in his office by an apparently deranged man. The attacker was captured, and said he had stabbed (Al-Statiyya) because he was a collaborator with Israeli authorities. This is the 5th case in less than a week of Arabs attacking other Arabs accused of cooperating with Israel.

Security sources, however, doubt this morning's attack had anything to do with collaboration. (Al-Statiyya) had never been accused before of being particularly chummy with Israeli authorities, including by his attacker who saw the health official on numerous occasions.

Also this morning, security forces entered the village of Zabad to carry out arrests of suspected organizers of the recent violence in northern Samaria. Zabad is between Janin and Tulkarm and was the scene of numerous incidents of stonethrowing at Israeli cars. But once again the army met resistance. Villagers confronted soldiers with stones and clubs; the army responded with light ammunition. The result: Two residents were injured. The army made several arrests.

Later, disturbances and demonstrations were reported in the village of Nuba near Hebron where the body of an Arab was found last night. Villagers charge that he was shot by soldiers. The army is investigating the incident.

Cabinet Briefed on Qalqilyah, Gaza Operations

TA1109121088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Excerpt] This morning the Cabinet was briefed by the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the police minister on last week's events in the territories, the IDF activity in the security zone in South Lebanon, and on the investigation into the military exemptions affair. Our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The Cabinet meeting on the eve of Rosh Hashana [Jewish New Year] was a brief one. Chief of Staff Dan Shomron reported on last night's clash between the Golani brigade soldiers and a terrorist squad north of the security zone, and on the capture of four terrorists.

Regarding the IDF's special operation in Qalqilyah, the chief of staff said that the project does not reflect a new policy, but rather an attempt to detain persons suspected of inciting violence. The operation has resulted in the detention of some 180 Qalqilyah residents, most of whom were included in the lists of persons wanted by the authorities.

After the Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the steps taken in Qalqilyah were meant to show the rioters that their acts of violence will be stopped, whether they like it or not.

[Rabin] The [security] system's activities rely constantly on the information it gathers. I am pleased with the steps we have taken. I would not like to raise false expectations by saying that the operations in Qalqilyah and the Gaza Strip will provide a comprehensive solution to the problem, but they have dealt another blow to those who incite the population to violence, who take advantage of it, and who have proved they are incapable of achieving anything positive or concrete for the benefit of the Palestinian residents of the territories. [passage omitted] [end recording]

7 Wounded in Territories 11 Sep

TA1109193588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] An IDF force today conducted searches in the Tulkarm area and detained dozens of youths suspected of rioting and inciting. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that 4 Arabs were wounded during the operation.

In the Gaza Strip three local inhabitants were wounded by rubber bullets as the security forces were dispersing rioters in the Al-Shati' refugee camp. Local inhabitants reported five more people have been wounded by shots in the city of Gaza.

4 'Terrorists' Captured in S. Lebanon

TA1109062088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] An Israeli army unit has captured four armed terrorists in the security zone in south Lebanon. The Israeli soldiers, members of the Golani Brigade, spotted the terrorist gang yesterday morning as it moved in the central sector of the zone near the village of Al-Tayyibah. In a brief firefight, one of the terrorists was wounded and the gang then surrendered. No Israeli soldiers were hurt. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami spoke to the head of Northern Command, Major General Yosi Peled, about the incident and the situation along the border with Lebanon.

[Begin recording] [Peled] What happened is not something unique. It's another attempt to launch an attack, this time in the security zone. As far as I know now, it was a group that attempted to place some mines, or something like that, or to attack vehicles inside the security zone.

[Ben-'Ami] Are we talking about a Palestinian group of Hizballah Shi'ites, or which faction?

[Peled] No, it's not the Hizballah group and its not a Palestinian group. It's something that belongs to a group that calls itself the Lebanese Communist Party.

[Ben-'Ami] This is a group that hasn't been too active in the past. Is there any particular reason why it's operating now?

[Peled] No, we are familiar with this group, but they usually don't initiate much activity, but it's not new. We are familiar with them, and from time to time they try to initiate some kind of activity inside the security zone.

[Ben-'Ami] In the last few weeks there have been quite a rash of infiltration attempts and attacks on SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF positions by almost every faction—Palestinian groups, the Hizballah Shi'ites, and other Lebanese factions. Is there anything that is behind this sudden rash, or sudden increase, in attacks?

[Peled] I don't see any kind of increasing. I may say that, more or less, the amount of attempts are, more or less, the average that we have been meeting during the last 12 months. I can't say there is any kind of increase.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you disappointed though? Just 3, 4 months ago the IDF carried out an operation outside the security zone in an effort to deter, to forestall terrorist activity.

[Peled] No, I'm not frustrated. I think we have to look at all the activities as a whole system. From time to time we have to prevent it in the security zone. From time to time we have to initiate military activities outside the security zone. But we must look at it as a whole system to protect the northern border of Israel.

[Ben-'Ami) Overall then, how would you assess the situation today along the northern border with Lebanon?

[Peled] Well, you know we are now facing the New Year. I can wish that the next year will be not worse than this year. I think this means everything.

[Ben-'Ami] Gen Peled, thank you very much.

[Peled] Thank you. [end recording]

Delegation Head Reports Activities in Moscow

TA0909140388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Sep 88 p A2

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] The Soviet authorities have not permitted the Israeli consular delegation to operate out of the Israeli Embassy in Moscow. The delegation can perform its tasks from the Netherlands Embassy only. This was reported yesterday to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and to top Foreign Ministry officials by Meron Gordon, head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, who is currently in Israel on home leave.

Gordon said that Israel continues to maintain its embassy building in Moscow for an annual cost of about $100,000. He added that the authorities do not allow the delegation to meet with administration figures to discuss political issues. On the other hand, the delegation members are not at all restricted in holding meetings with Jewish aliyah activists and refuseniks. The Israelis have met with senior Soviet journalists, ambassadors from foreign countries accredited to the Soviet Union, and Soviet officials who do not deal with political matters.

The head of the consular delegation reported that the six delegation members closely supervise the process of issuing exit permits for Jews, something that is done in the Netherlands Embassy. He claimed that there is a chance for more Soviet tourism to Israel. Some 3,000 Soviet tourists have visited Israel over the past few months.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asked Gordon to deliver a congratulatory message to the delegation members. In it, Peres stressed that "the presence of the Israeli delegation in Moscow at this time is a sign of improvement in Israeli-Soviet relations. The pioneering work you are doing on behalf of Israel is worthy of the whole nation's appreciation. You are serving as ambassadors of good will to the Soviet Government, and as messengers of friendship to Soviet Jews, who are the object of our thoughts and prayers all the time. We hope that the coming year will lead to full normalization in our relations with the Soviet Union and to a broader flow of free immigration."

Peres asked Gordon to convey to the Jewish community our wishes for "a year of hope and fraternity, a year in which we will enjoy seeing them with us, bearing feelings of Jewish warmth and brotherhood."

Reactions to Reagan Meeting Viewed

TA0909141088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Sep 88 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "An Embarrassing Meeting"]

[Text] He who knows what is good for him will avoid the peace process. A smart Israeli politician will not expose himself to his public as somebody who has tried to advance the peace process. If this is not true, then it is hard to understand why, just after it was learned that Ronald Reagan has invited the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers for a meeting on the future of the negotiations, Shim'on Peres hurried to state that he had first heard about this over the radio. It was important for him to emphasize that he did not initiate the meeting, that he was not guilty of it. The Likud insisted on pointing at him in disbelief and shouting in unison that he was indeed guilty.

Yitzhaq Shamir had reservations about the meeting. David Levi considered the invitation to Washington as "something grave." The Likud hinted that Peres organized the meeting, for himself and his Egyptian counterpart Al-Majid, with Reagan. Former Attorney General Hayim Kohen once asked, following a stormy district court case: "Have they gone crazy?" Now the same question can be asked in a different national context: Have they gone crazy?

Instead of Peres boasting that he has organized another meeting in order to clarify the peace situation and has managed to bring Egypt to a meeting in the midst of the uprising—a meeting which recalls in its participants and standing the Camp David meeting which was so intensely abhored by the PLO—and instead of the Likud deriding Peres for not having done anything at all, and insisting that everything was the result of the welcome initiative of Reagan—who does not discriminate between the two large Israeli parties—the two sides have engaged in role reversal. Because of the battle over the floating votes currently being waged between the Likud and the Alignment, Peres has been forced to conceal something he would have really liked to boast about.

This is the result of the vilification of the Husayn-Peres agreement by the Likud, the fruit of the increasing slandering of the international conference. This is a signal of things to come to the effect that peace has become a dirty word. Those who will form the next government will have to possess a certificate stating they have not wasted their time in vain attempts at a dialogue with the Arabs.

Shamir and Levi know that their reaction was ridiculous. How would Israel have looked had Peres refused Reagan's invitation and thereby left the White House lawn open for 'Abd al-Majid's propaganda? This step would have been construed by the U.S. public as even worse than the stupid and harmful proposal to forbid the Arabs of the territories from appealing to the High Court of Justice. The Likud, however, believes that Peres is interested in the meeting and that there is still a public in Israel which might be influenced on election day by the gesture of such negotiations. If Peres, however, really wanted to put the Likud to the test he would have brought the issue to the Cabinet for approval. He would have demanded that the Likud ministers raise their hands in opposition to forbid him from traveling to Washington—let's see them do it, so to speak.

They would not have dared. They would also not admit that if Reagan's invitation was based on the political positions of the two parties competing for the U.S. presidency, then this means that there is a U.S. consensus to help the Alignment and not the Likud in the Israeli elections. Even if some voters increase their support for the Likud as a result of this information, others may come to believe that it is undesirable to elect an Israeli Government which would be a thorn in the side of both the Republicans and the Democrats.

Obviously, the invitation is a subtle form of U.S. intervention in the Israeli elections, however, there is nothing new in this. George Shultz cannot propose anything which has not been said already, Peres is bound by the government resolutions, and 'Abd al-Majid is committed to the Palestinian position. Even the Israeli Foreign Ministry's assumption that Shultz will be able to act freely between November 1988 and January 1989 is inaccurate. Any future secretary of state will ask Shultz to let him finish the work, which is, after all, only in its initial stage.

The scheduled meeting nevertheless has political significance. From a U.S. point of view this is an attempt to boost Egypt's image. The Americans want to help Egypt, in the face of the uprising and during the difficult months of the election campaigns in Israel and the United States, pretend that business is as usual and that Egypt has a significant role to play. The invitation initiated by Reagan is indicative of the difficult situation in which Egypt currently finds itself, and of the danger to the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement stemming from this situation.

Al-Rifa'i Says U.S., Israel 'Annoyed' by Decision

JN1109082588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] Kuwait (PETRA)—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said that Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank has annoyed Israel and the United States.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA' newspaper, Al-Rifa'i said the Jordanian decision was positive since it highlighted the role of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). "The U.S. cannot ignore that it has to deal with the PLO and Israel cannot continue to deny that Palestinians are living under its occupation in Palestine and they have rights in their homeland," Al-Rifa'i said.

The prime minister said the Jordanian decision had put the Palestinian cause in its right perspective as a cause of a people fighting occupation and colonialism. The Jordanian move, the prime minister said, was in compliance with the desires of the PLO and the general Arab orientation.

Al-Rifa'i said any party wishing to pursue peace should now deal with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Jordanian step was aimed at enhancing the Palestinian identity and put an end to what Israel calls the Jordanian option, Al-Rifa'i told AL-ANBA'. "The only option left for Israel is to talk to the PLO," he said.

He said that this does not mean that Jordan is no longer involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. "Jordan is a confrontation state and its borders with Israel are longer than the border of any country, including the West Bank," the prime minister noted.

Asked whether the Jordanian decision was taken with the knowledge of the PLO or whether there was any prior consultation with the organisation, the prime minister said the decision was taken in response to PLO and Arab demands in accordance with Arab summit resolutions.

"We don't understand this and we ask: How does someone consult another when he wants to give him something? We did not offer the PLO a new thing; we gave them what they have been insisting on continuously. Would they have said no if we consulted them? However, we do not pay much attention to what is being said in this regard," the prime minister said.

Al-Rifa'i said Jordan's decision did not affect U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, since the resolution called for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories and not Jordanian territory.

He said the decision was a boost to the Palestinian intifada and he hoped that the PLO would be able to take the rights decisions to ensure the end of Israeli occupation and restoration of Palestinian rights.

The prime minister said Jordan had a fundamental role to play in the peace process. In case a peace conference was convened, Jordan, Al-Rifa'i said, would participate with other Arab brothers to ensure a just and lasting peace in the region.

"We will support the PLO until it regains Palestinian rights," Al-Rifa'i said. He said any declaration of a Palestinian government was a PLO decision and Jordan would welcome any move in this regard and support it with whatever possible.

Asked if there were any arrangements for talks with the PLO this month, the prime minister said that there was no fixed arrangement for such talks. "But we welcome our Palestinian brothers any time."

Asked about the possibility of convening an international Middle East peace conference, Al-Rifa'i said that for such a conference to convene, the U.S. and the Soviet Union and the rest of the Security Council members must reach agreement. Israel must also accept the principles on which the conference would convene, including withdrawal from occupied Palestinian lands and recognition of Palestinian national rights, he said.

'Suspect Campaign' Against Iraq Denounced

JN1109114288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has denounced the suspect campaign to which fraternal Iraq is being subjected by some circles. These circles accuse Iraq of using chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels in Iraq.

Replying to a question posed by the Jordanian news agency, Al-Masri said Jordan noted this campaign with great astonishment despite the fact that Iraq had categorically denied such allegations and despite the fact that the Turkish Government had issued an official statement denying knowledge of Iraq's use of these weapons. The statement also denied that any of the Kurds who entered Turkish territories and who were subjected to medical examination had sustained injury by chemical weapons.

The minister added that the aims of this misleading campaign against Iraq are clear to us all, particularly as it comes when the Geneva talks on implementing Resolution 598 are at a critical point. The campaign also comes when Iraq has declared a general amnesty for all Kurdish citizens outside Iraq, he added.

Al-Masri said while Jordan denounces this suspect campaign against fraternal Iraq, it calls on all states not to listen or pay attention to this suspect campaign and also to support the peace march led by Iraq in order to attain a just, lasting peace between Iraq and Iran. He stressed the need to halt this suspect campaign because such conduct will not move Iraq from its clear, sound position which calls for ending all aspects of the conflict.

Hasan Telephones Saddam Husayn, Affirms Support

JN1209053688 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Under the directives of His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, last night telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The regent stressed Jordan's support to Iraq against the hostile propaganda campaign. His royal highness said this campaign is aimed at diverting the attention of international opinion away from Iraq's victory and in liberating Al-Faw and other Iraqi lands, particularly on the northern border with Iran, parts of which were occupied by Iran in cooperation with a group of Kurdish dissidents collaborating with the Iranian regime.

President Husayn confirmed to his royal highness that all Iraqi military operations ended a long time ago and that more than 11,000 Kurdish citizens have returned home, responding to the general amnesty issued recently. President Saddam said that Iraq is fully aware of the ferocious campaign waged by hostile press charging Iraq of using chemical weapons despite Baghdad's repeated denials of such allegations.

Al-Khasawinah Returns From Visit to Baghdad

JN1109092588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 24

[Excerpts] Amman—Minister of Information Hani al-Khasawinah last night returned home from Baghdad after a 5-day visit to Iraq during which he participated in the 23rd round of the Arab information ministers' meetings which ended last Wednesday. [passage omitted]

While in the Iraqi capital, Al-Khasawinah was very active and met with some of the other Arab ministers. He also met with Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns From Nicosia Talks

JN1109161088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman today after heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers which concluded in Nicosia yesterday, Saturday. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR on Reagan Initiative, Mideast Peace

JN0909075588 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Sep 88 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "An International Conference Is the Only Road to Peace"]

[Text] If yesterday's report that U.S. President Ronald Reagan had invited the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to meet with him in New York at the end of this month was part of promoting the Middle East peace process, then the least that can be said is that it is a late invitation, particularly if we consider that the current U.S. Administration will end its term of office in the next few months.

Nevertheless, if the U.S. Administration is really interested in searching for a just and lasting peace in this region, then it should first curb the Israeli desire for aggression and bloodshed. In past years, Israel wagered on unlimited U.S. support in the arms and economic fields in order to continue its inhuman disavowal of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate aspirations for an honorable life in their homeland. Israel also continued to persecute Arab citizens under its occupation. In the past 9 months, the whole world has denounced Israel's intransigence and its hysterical practices against the Palestinian Arab people's uprising. This uprising aims to emphasize this people's identity and entrench their right to a free, dignified life on their homeland's soil.

The way to a just, honorable peace in this part of the world is crystal-clear to everyone who has a sincere desire for peace. More than once, Arabs and the world states were unanimous that a just peace can only be attained through an international conference attended by all parties to the conflict in addition to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

This is an unequivocal road. If the United States is truly eager to achieve peace that will secure the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights and enable all parties to live in security and stability, then it should first compel Israel to stop its arbitrary practices and agree to the convening of an international conference. Most world states have approved such a conference and considered it the only road to peace. Otherwise, any talk about promoting the peace process outside this framework, which all Arabs accepted and which gained the support of most members of the international community, will remain useless talk and will not realize the aspired peace.

Column on Iraqi, Syrian Stances on Kurds, Lebanon

JN0509114688 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Sep 88 p 20

["With Life and People" column: "From Boycott to Rupture" by Fahd al-Rimawi]

[Text] In absolutely all cases and cicumstances, no Arab has the right to term as nationalist revolutionaries the Kurdish separatists, who allied themselves with the

Iranian Army and facilitated the fall of Halabjah. Similarly, no Arab has the right to consider the Phalangist gangs and the Ja'ja'ites, who collaborated with the Zionist invasion forces and opened the gates of Beirut for them, freedom seekers and independence advocates.

No Arab regime has the right to place political feuds over nationalist considerations or pan-Arab interests by persisting in stubbornness and plotting to the extent of encroaching on principles and exceeding the red lines which separate what is legitimate from what is forbidden in political action and its literature and alliances.

It is illogical and it serves no principle or interest to raise the slogan of pan-Arabism in one place, while we entrench regionalism in another; or to fight sectarianism and racism in our country, while we feed their motives, move their wheels, and encourage their advocates in neighboring Arab countries in spite of their rulers because of disagreement with them and out of a desire to export crises to their arenas.

Basically, safeguarding the Arab soil from occupation and separation is the duty of every Arab, whether he is a citizen or an official. It is also a historical trust handed by fathers to sons and grandfathers to grandsons. Sectarian, regional, and racist sedition is a weapon which often boomerangs against its originator before it harms the target. Moreover, sedition is a highly flammable commodity which may catch fire in others' houses today, but moves to our houses tomorrow.

Originally, homelands survive longer than their rulers, the regimes are to serve the people, and principles lead struggle and direct public conduct. The opposite occurs when the ruler becomes more important than the homeland, the people are devoted to serving the regime, principles justify tricks, and ideologies are twisted to meet the needs of the authority and justify the actions of the rulers.

Although we called and will continue to call for resolving inter-Arab differences through dialogue and at the tables of democratic interaction and free persuasion, we clearly support Syria's right to abort the sectarian plan in Lebanon and to raise the Arab flag on the isolationist Phalangist canton and others by all available methods or possible means. At the same time, we can neither understand nor justify support by any Arab quarter for sectarianism in the Lebanese arena proceeding from feud against the Syrian regime.

The same can also be clearly said about Iraq's right to bury the separatist Kurdish tendency which has recently flourished in the north with all available methods and possible means, without understanding or justifying support by any Arab quarter for racism in the Iraqi arena proceeding from a feud against the Iraqi regime.

No country on this planet is more progressive and nationally tolerant than the Soviet Union. However, the Soviet leadership firmly rejected the separation of Nagorno-Karabakh region from a Soviet republic to join another Soviet republic—not a hostile country or a Western capitalist country. So how can anyone of us under revolutionary, liberation, or progressive claims support sectarian, racial, or religious parties or movements to enable them to be separated from the motherland and join the enemies, aliens, the greedy ones?

We have suffered a great deal from the dangers of Arab political differences which have torn us, exhausted us, and shattered our unionist dreams. However, these differences will turn into a real pan-Arab catastrophe if they get completely loose from the chain of logic and reason, and were turned into crusades which reach the extent of complete rupture, bone breaking, and the point of no return.

Continued Reportage on Deputy Sarhal's Activities

RFL Says Sarhal in Damascus

NC0909170288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] According to the latest reports, Deputy Farid Sarhal has been taken from the Bristol Hotel in West Beirut to Damascus, where he will be kept for the time being.

According to some reports, PSP gunmen and Syrian intelligence men surrounded the Bristol Hotel today and prevented Deputies Mikhayil al-Dahir, Pierre Hilu, Shafiq Badr, Rashid al-Sulh, and 'Ali al-'Abdallah from seeing Deputy Sarhal on the pretext that he was attending a meeting and could not meet with them. At midday, Sarhal was taken to the Syrian capital escorted by Syrian intelligence men. [passage omitted]

RFL on Warrant for Detainers

NC0909171488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Dr Munif Hamdan, the prosecutor general in Beirut, issued a memorandum to the commander of the judicial police today, requesting him to pursue and apprehend the perpetrators and instigators in the issue involving the detention of Deputy Farid Sarhal.

Ja'ja' Denounces 'Abduction'

NC0909203988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has denounced the abduction of Deputy Farid Sarhal and expressed surprise that the champions of freedom, officials, and influential leaders have done nothing about the abduction of a Lebanese deputy, which took place openly and in broad daylight. Ja'ja' thinks that Sarhal was abducted because of his stand on the 18 August Chamber of Deputies session. This, Ja'ja' said, is just a Syrian attempt to make Sarhal change his position and teach his parliamentary colleagues a lesson. [passage omitted]

Dr Ja'ja' added that Sarhal was taken to Damascus so that pressure could be brought to bear on him to make him take a pro-Franjiyah position whenever the next session is held and to threaten him with being prevented from going to Jazzin. In this way, the Syrians would draw a new deputy to their side by force. Sarhal's abduction would also frighten the other deputies, he said.

He added: I do not think that this incident will affect the position of the deputies, because when they took their stands on the 18 August session they knew that the Syrians might embark on such actions. The Lebanese Forces commander affirmed that the abduction forms part of Syria's preparations for a second Chamber of Deputies election session in an attempt to ensure a sufficient quorum to elect Franjiyah. He thinks that this plan will not succeed because they cannot ensure a quorum for the session. He reassured the deputies that no one can harm them, and said: If the Syrians continue such actions, everyone possesses the means to give an appropriate response. He noted that the Lebanese Forces are maintaining contacts with all the deputies.

VOL on Sarhal's Return

NC1009170288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpt] After an approximately 30-hour stay under special and, as yet unclear circumstances in Damascus, Deputy Farid Sarhal returned to the Bristol Hotel at 1745 today, where he had been taken the day before yesterday after being intercepted at a checkpoint on the Al-Damur Bridge while leaving for the town of Jazzin. Upon arriving at the hotel he contacted his family. He received PSP member Antoine Al-Ashqar in his suite at 1815.

In a contact with Deputy Sarhal in the Bristol Hotel, he declined to tell the Voice of Lebanon the details of his visit to Damascus. It was learned from him that he will complete his talks in Beirut. He said: I will say nothing about what has happened and is happening. I was in Damascus where I held talks with officials. I have returned to Beirut to complete these talks. He refused to answer a question on whether he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Deputy Sarhal promised to provide our correspondent with all the details tomorrow morning. [passage omitted]

Sarhal Statement

NC1109181388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Deputy Farid Sarhal has stressed that he is not the victim of kidnapping or detention in the ordinary sense of the word, adding that this issue has been exaggerated and lacks objectivity.

This afternoon at the Bristol Hotel Deputy Sarhal released a statement in which he clarified the circumstances of the case. In this statement he says:

Having followed this morning's news reports, I felt obliged to reassure the public and to thank all those who have showed interest in the recent incident which led to may sudden absence from Jazzin, my clinic, and my friends. My absence is due to the delicate political situation, which required me to hold intensive meetings with various officials.

I would like to thank His Eminence Patriarch Sfayr, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayn, Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Deputy Speaker Albert Mukhaybir, Charles Hilu, Kamil al-As'ad, Rashid al-Sulh, and other officials, newsmen, and friends who have shown an interest in this case.

I would like to stress the following points:

First, I have not been kidnapped or detained in the usual sense of the word;

Second, my stay at the Bristol Hotel has allowed me to carry out talks concerning the most important issue of the presidential elections. I also have been able to tackle several issues concerning the Jazzin area;

Third, the fact that a political figure such as Minister Walid Junblatt sent his personal envoy, Antoine al-Ashqar, to visit me, is proof that the current talks are taking place at a high level;

Fourth, I would like to emphasize that there are no personal quarrels between Minister Walid Junblatt and myself, as some media sources have claimed. It is well-known that a historic relationship and political outlook on a number of issues bind us with the Junblatt family;

Fifth, I urge the media and those who sympathize with us to objectively and meticulously tackle matters to avoid exploitation, particularly since I have been greatly affected by these exaggerated remarks, which run counter to my conviction, moderation, and objectivity in dealing with political issues. This stems from my concern with the basic issues, such as the constitutional deadline and Lebanon's ability to ride out its crisis and ordeal.

VOM Says Forces Prevent Deputies' Movement

NC1209055288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Having detained a number of deputies on 18 August to stop them reaching the Chamber of Deputies to perform their nationalist duty, the Phalangist forces have prevented Deputy Joseph Skaff from leaving the eastern area. He was supposed to go to Damascus yesterday to hold talks with Syrian officials. It is reported that the Lebanese Forces have cordoned off Deputy Skaff's home, surrounding it with armed troops.

The Lebanese forces have also prevented Deputy Emile Ruhana Saqr from using the al-Barbarah crossing point to go to Ihdin to meet with Sulayman Franjiyah and have stopped Deputies Jubran Tawq and Habib Kayruz from leaving for Bsharri.

Al-Jumayyil on Syria, Foreign Occupation

NC1109065788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has warned that a power vacuum could jeopardize Lebanon's sovereignty and encourage those who have ambitions concerning the Lebanese territories, starting with Israel.

In an interview with the Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM published today, the president stressed that the Lebanese people seek the strongest relations with their neighbor Syria, noting that a dispute is neither in Lebanon's interests nor in Syria's. He added: We are trying to bring relations with Damascus back to normal, but despite continuing contacts in this respect, the situation on the ground is deteriorating.

Asked about the political reforms, President al-Jumayyil said they are necessary, but added: Reforms are one thing, but blowing up the political system that brings together all the Lebanese is another. He emphasized that in spite of everything, the Lebanese people have shown that they are still united.

Regarding the occupation, President al-Jumayyil said several foreign armies are occupying the country. In addition to Israel and Syria, which intervened in 1976 to encourage inter-Lebanese reconciliation, we have the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who constitute a real regular army; the Libyan Army, which is present in some areas; and the Palestinian organizations. The president appealed to the Arab countries and to peace advocates to help Lebanon overcome its current difficulties. He added: The Lebanese have committed serious crimes against their country, but when your younger brother is at fault you don't kill him, you try to save him.

Al-Jumayyil Moves To Form Transitional Government

PM0909131588 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Sep 88 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Al-Jumayyil Prepares To Announce New Government"]

[Text] President of the Lebanese Republic Amin al-Jumayyil has begun secret consultations in preparation for the formation of a transitional government in accordance with his constitutional powers to assume presidential tasks if a new president is not elected before 23 September, which marks the end of the constitutional [presidential] term.

According to information received by AL-MAJALLAH, President AL-Jumayyil intends to form a government comprising six Islamic and Christian figures, but he is facing a problem regarding Islamic representation, especially as both Mufti Hasan Khalid and [Deputy Chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din have rejected such a government, declaring their adherence to the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. The Lebanese president openly wondered before a number of deputies whether there was an international decision to partition Lebanon. Some suggested to Al-Jumayyil that he form an expanded government comprising key Muslim and Christian figures under Sa'ib Sallam in order to unite the country under these conditions and in order for leaders to shoulder their responsibilities.

Maronite deputies refused to nominate a presidential candidate to avoid division among themselves and prevent a Maronite candidate from being imposed on the Islamic side.

Al-Huss Rejects Transitional Government

NC0909123188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that the president of the Republic is not compelled to form a transitional government. This is not his duty, and the Constitution does not mention anything called a transitional government. The Constitution does not empower the president to form governments or risk Lebanon's unity, he stated.

During a meeting with the editors' doyen Milhim Karam, Al-Huss stressed that the president's duty is to avoid taking steps that may threaten the country's unity, even if the Constitution permits this in theory.

Al-Huss said that since the United States has made itself an active player in determining Lebanon's future, the United States will not be considered innocent should anything happen to Lebanon or if this stage leads Lebanon to an unknown fate.

He noted that the only solution is to elect a new president within the constitutional deadline. All proposed plans are bad and grave alternatives, he stressed.

Junblatt Condemns Patriarch Sfayr's Stand

NC0909184888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Statement by PSP Leader Walid Junblatt; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Sfayr wishes to distort political and social facts and to again turn Lebanon into a national homeland exclusively for Maronites. In this way he wants to make it a field for local privileges and Western schemes in general, and the French and the Israeli schemes against the Arabs and Syria in particular. Therefore, we believe that it is inadvisable at present to visit Bkirki or to receive any messages from there which remind us of the ill-omened age of mandate and imperialism which is behind the current civil war.

Syria's Al-Shar' Lauds Franjiyah

NC1009193988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Speaking to AFP in Nicosia, Syrian Foreign minister Faruq al-Shar' commented generally on the situation in Lebanon and particularly on the presidential elections. He said: Lebanon has a presiential candidate who can bring about reconciliation. His name is Sulayman Franjiyah. If Lebanon is to remain united, then a meager minority in that country cannot continue to impose its opinion and hold on to a system which cries for correction.

George Sa'adah on Lebanese Elections, Unity

JN1109152388 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 17

[Interview with George Sa'adah, head of the Phalangist Party of Lebanon, by Zuhayr Majid—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Majid] How do you assess the current political situation from your point of view, that is from the Phalangist Party's point of view?

[Sa'adah] The situation is highly sensitive. We in the Phalangist Party have been aware of the dangerous situation Lebanon has been going through for a long time. That is why we worked hard to reach the stage of presidential elections in a positive atmosphere. We were not satisfied with statements and stands but held intensive contacts with many sides to save Lebanon from many dangers it can do without, especially since Lebanese public opinion was expecting the presidential election to create a new step toward detente. However, what we were hoping for and working toward has not happened. On the contrary, things have reached a crisis greater than before, and the presidential election became a fateful one. However, we have not lost hope and are still working with the faithful so that we can reach a solution that will satisfy all the Lebanese and rid the country of the crisis, which has gone on for too long. [Passage omitted]

[Majid] Some describe your stands as a party as moderate. What is noticeable is that the leaders of the Lebanese Forces still wage one attack after the other on some sides. Is there coordination and understanding between you and the Lebanese Forces on this subject, or are the Forces independent from the Phalangist Party?

[Sa'adah] The Lebanese Forces, independent of the party, have their Command Council from which their decisions stem. The Lebanese Forces also form part of the Lebanese Front. General topics are brought up and discussed inside the front. If you have any questions on this topic, then I suggest you ask the Lebanese Forces Command Council. I believe the Command Council has declared stands, the most recent of which was the press conference held by its leader, Samir Ja'ja'. This stand was characterized by moderation and opened more than one window in the direction of others. [passage omitted]

[Majid] In your opinion, will a new president for the country will be elected within the defined constitutional period?

[Sa'adah] We are the ones who are asking that the elections be completed within the defined period and as soon as possible because, otherwise, this will reflect very negatively on the Lebanese situation, which cannot take any more negative turns than it has already. If there are any difficulties due to interventions and hindrances, which we all know about, and if there is any difficulty in holding the election before 23 September, then we have to concentrate our efforts toward reaching a positive atmosphere that will allow us to hold the presidential election.

[Majid] Do you expect an intensification on the military front if the new president of the country is not elected within the defined constitutional period?

[Sa'adah] I do not believe it is in anyone's interest to intensify military activities because in the 14 years of war in Lebanon, in which all types of weapons have been used, be they known physical weapons or others such as economic warfare, it has been proved to everyone that no party can overthrow another. If we all become aware of this fact, we will have to cast aside our weapons, because it might destroy and ruin everyone. The projectile directed toward one area is bound to be answered by another, not necessarily only from the place on which it fell. We all have to abandon this language. [passage omitted]

[Majid] Who in your opinion is the president who will be able to liberate the whole of Lebanon and the Lebanese?

[Sa'adah] Thank God, the Lebanese capabilities are known, and the required characteristics are available in more than one person. We are now facing a national tragedy. The issue is not that of people as much as it is an issue of characteristics available in many of the Lebanese. The important thing is for us to agree amongst ourselves. If we agree amongst ourselves and support the venerable president, he will be able to unify the Lebanese and navigate the ship toward the shore of peace.

Fadlallah Expects Elections Before 23 Sep

NC1109164588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that during the recent Shi'ite council meeting, which was attended by Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Minister Birri, and some key Shi'ite officials, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din rejected the inflammatory proposals presented by Minister Birri. Shams al-Din noted that the proposals were harmful to the South and the southerners and a pretext that Israel could use to stay in the South.

Meanwhile, Hizballah guide scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has affirmed that the presidential elections will take place before 23 September, regardless of the complications and intimidations.

Al-Husayni Invites Deputies for 22 Sep Election

NC1209090888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has invited the deputies to attend a session to elect a president on 22 September; that is, 1 day before the expiration of the term of office of Amin al-Jumayyil. The session will be held at the original premises of the Chamber in Al-Najimah Square [in West Beirut].

Deputy Speaker Views Election Prospects

PM1209091188 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Sep 88 p 19

[Interview with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Deputy Speaker Dr Albert Mukhaybar by Christian Awsi; place, date not specified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: The atmosphere is shrouded in mystery. The people are confused. What is the true situation?

Mukhaybar: The people are concerned about their destiny. That is why the atmosphere is tense. Terrified citizens rush to the deputies, seeking a solution. The Chamber of Deputies is harmonious, coherent, and united over one objective, that is, holding the elections before 23 September so that a vacuum will not occur. I believe that this stand, which is uniting the deputies, will lead to the duty being performed in full before 23 September. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Will the deputies be able to transcend the Syrian-U.S. struggle over the constitutional elections?

Mukhaybar: I do not believe that the Syrian-U.S. struggle can transcend the parliamentary will. And both the United States and Syria must follow the method of consultation and exchange views comprehensively, in the sense that they and the states concerned with the Lebanese question must take into account the chamber's views and the deputies' inclinations.

AL-HAWADITH: [Chamber of Deputies] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss have visited Damascus. In view of the results of their visit, do you believe that the political atmosphere will help the country to overcome this phase and avoid a constitutional vacuum?

Mukhaybar: In view of current conditions it was natural for the speaker of the chamber and the prime minister to visit Damascus and consult with Syrian officials over the constitutional elections. The speaker of the chamber carried to Damascus the deputies' anxieties and aspirations. Both will work toward bringing viewpoints closer, as they did during their visit when they briefed the Syrian authorities on the national objectives to which the deputies aspire. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is your opinion of Franjiyyah's nomination?

Mukhaybar: [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyyah is a man who is loyal to his country. He has proved this on many occasions, especially during this ordeal.

AL-HAWADITH: There are stories behind the scenes about a transitional government if the elections are not held. What is your opinion?

Mukhaybar: I see a transitional government as a government of evil: There must be either a government that satisfies everyone or no government at all. We would rather do without a government than have a government splitting the country into two halves, thus painting a picture to the outside of estrangement among the Lebanese. I believe that it is the duty of the authorities to avoid any challenge or convulsive action that would stir up convulsive reactions on the other side. We now need peace security, equality, and understanding. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Can Syrian-U.S. contacts lead to any positive results?

Mukhaybar: I am certain that Lebanon will remain and that there will be a new president for the republic by 23 September.

Iddih Announces Intention to Run for Presidency

NC1209105488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] A short while ago, following the announcement of the date of the second chamber session for the election of a president Raymond Iddih telephoned Ihsan Abu Khalil, secretary general of the Chamber of Deputies, to notify him that he intends to run for president. He declared that he will cable Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to inform him of this officially.

Nationalist Parties To Unify Militias

NC0909094988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Sep (MENA)—An informed source of one of the parties in Beirut has stated that the nationalist parties in Lebanon have decided to unite all the military militia under the flag of a national army which they intend to set up in the areas under their control.

The Abu Dhabi-based paper AL-ITTIHAD reports today that the decision to form a unified command of these militias will be announced next week. The paper points out that representatives of these parties decided at a meeting yesterday to form political, information, security, economic, and social committees to administer the areas under their control and confront any possible constitutional developments in Lebanon. Names of members of these committees will be announced in the next 2 days.

Amal-Palestinians, Nasirites Form Committees

NC1009112488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Al-Hajj Mahmud Faqih, the general organizational official in the Amal Movement, has announced the formation of two committees in Sidon and Tyre. The committees include representatives from the Amal Movement, the Palestinians, and the Nasirite Popular Organization, and will meet periodically to deal with all unexpected incidents.

In a statement he made today commenting on rumors about the resumption of the camps war in the south, Faqih said that the Amal Movement does not want to fight the Palestinians under any slogan. He announced the propaganda statements made by [Palestinian] groups which are designed to disturb tranquility.

Forces, Parties Issue Communique

NC1009145188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] The nationalist and progressive forces and parties, and the Palestinian organizations, have issued a joint communique saying that in order to render the confrontation of the Zionist-U.S. sectarian design a success, the progressive and nationalist relations among the Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians should be straightened out. These parties confirmed the positive atmosphere which dominated the Lebanese-Palestinian meeting. The communique underlined the fact that all conflicts would definitely serve the enemies' designs and were, therefore, rejected. The communique reiterated the need to open all roads and to ensure freedom of movement for the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

The progressive and nationalist parties and forces in Sidon and the Palestinian organizations held a joint meeting at the residence of Eng Mustfa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization. This meeting, which ended at 1500, was attended by representatives of the Ba'th Party, Amal Movement, PSP, the Communist Party, the Nasirite unionist grouping [as heard] and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party.

Statement Detailed

NC1109184788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Statement issued by "The Nationalist Parties and Forces"; place, date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The 13th of September, the last day falling within the consitutional grace period for the election of a president of the Republic, is approaching. Amin al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese Forces, as well as the United States and Israel, through their direct intervention and their role in supporting and pushing toward the isolationist convulsion, bear the full responsibility for allowing this opportunity to be missed. Through their solidarity and support, all these parties are held responsible for the political consequences and all the expected negative repercussions on the future situation of the country. All the maneuvers to which these conspiring parties have resorted, as well as the wide-scale information campaign they have launched to mislead the Christian public in particular, and to absolve themselves of the responsibility for the political crisis to which they have pushed the country, will be useless.

The attempt to appear as caring for the democratic game and as respecting for the constitutional provisions is disproved and refuted by Amin al-Jumayyil's practices during his term and the Lebanese Forces' course of action. The latest example of such flagrant actions was their failing to obtain a quorum at the 18 August Chamber of Deputies session.

When the reactionary alliance of Amin al-Jumayyil, the Lebanese Forces, and the Army Command, which rely on U.S. and Israeli support, realized that the balance of power may not permit them to impose a candidate who will serve their purposes and those of their masters, they violated democracy and rudely trampled on its principles. They then raised clamor and blamed others for the results when they realized that the political struggle had begun to take a course, threatening the basis of the sectarian and factional privileges. Therefore, they have sought to secure a popular reason for their political course of action by stirring an information clamor to mislead public opinion, particularly in the areas under their control; by exploiting the innocent and legitimate wishes of some citizens to emerge from the crisis in the country, specifically because of the policy of the isolationist alliance itself; and by resorting to all ways and means, particularly the tools and agents of the second branch [the Army's intelligence branch] in all the areas, including our nationalist areas, to organize and arrange meetings in the name of professional and popular organizations and committees from which public statements and declarations were and are issued, and which they sought and seek to utilize in serving the political line of the reactionary-U.S.-Israeli alliance.

At the same time, the alliance parties have gone far in utilizing their intransigent method as seen by their rejection of any attempt to achieve reconciliation on the basis of political, economic, and social reforms and to hold the presidential elections. They continue to declare their insistence on forming a provisional government, irrespective of the political consequences of which such a step will have on the country's future, including pushing it toward partition and threatening its existence.

The nationalist parties and forces call on all the Lebanese who care for the country's unity, future, and democratic development to maintain maximum alert. They reaffirm that the Americans, Israelis, and their agents at home are placing the country before two grave choices: either to accept their conditions at the domestic and regional levels, which will mean continuing the factional and sectarian domination and hegemony; refusing to implement reforms on any level; submitting to the requirements of the Shultz plan for arranging the affairs of the region in order to strengthen the positions of American imperialism, Israel, and Arab reaction; undermining Syria's position and role in facing all the suspect imperialist-Israeli plans; and ending the Palestinian cause, or—as a second choice—to place the country before the political, military, and security possibilities and complications with the inherent destruction and ruination that will affect all sections of the Lebanese people, including the Christian citizens.

This adventurous and suicidal course, which is a continuation of the course which the Phalangists and the agents of Israel and the United States have pursued since 1975, must and can be stopped if all the forces in all the areas and among all the communities which care for Lebanon and its future are mobilized. The nationalist and progressive forces will devote all their resources for this purpose.

Israeli Helicopters Raid Southern Town

NC1009140688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Two Israeli Cobra helicopters raided the southern part of Dayr Siryan in the Marj 'Uyun District at 1345 today. The Israeli aircraft fired three air-to-surface missiles at the town, destroying two houses located in its outskirts. The same aircraft raked the nearby fields with machinegun fire.

'Fierce' Clashes Reported Near Dayr Siryan

NC1009193288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Extreme tension still prevails in the area to the east of Sidon following the clashes which took place this afternoon on the combat lines of Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and

'Ayn al-Mir between the Popular Liberation Army—Ma'ruf Sa'd forces on one side and the agent militias on the other.

Meanwhile, the National Resistance Front has issued a statement saying that its men are engaged in fierce clashes with the occupation forces and their agents to the west of Dayr Siryan. The statement mentions that the enemy forces have brought in reinforcements and are being backed by helicopters and heavy artillery.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC1109115088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1135 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted reconnaissance flights in Lebanese airspace and broke the sound barrier over Beirut at 1340 today.

Israel Besieges Rshaf, Planes Fly Over Sidon

NC1109180188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Excerpts] On top of every hill in the South, the flag of the national resistance will be hoisted by blood and fire and by sacrifices. This will prove that liberation is a never-ending sacred goal. This is how the Resistance Front began its statement, which it issued at midday, and which details a series of heroic confrontations with the occupation forces.

The statement says that at 0730 today a group of the comrades of Martyr Farajallah Fu'ani launched an attak against an agent position in Kurum al-Arz. The group succeeded in killing the sentry guarding the position and then firing rockets and machineguns at it.

Meanwhile, another group of Fu'ani comrades attacked a Lahd checkpoint near the Jazzin barracks. The group scored a direct hit against the guards' rampart, after which it exchanged fire with agents in the barracks. During this exchange of fire, the barracks received several direct hits. [passage omitted]

Resistance fighters also carried out an attack against a Lahd position near the Batir crossing point. The results of this attack are not yet known because of the military cordon which the Israeli occupation forces imposed on the area.

In a separate development, resistance men today ambushed an agent patrol on the Sujud-al-Rayhan Road, destroying a vehicle of the Lahd militia, which immediately combed the nearby areas.

Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes conducted several sorties over Sidon and the camps this afternoon, drawing anti-aircraft fire.

In another development, the inhabitants of Rshaf, a village near Bint Jubayl, appealed to officials and international organizations today to work together to end the siege imposed on this village and to allow food and medicinal supplies to reach them. It is know that Rshaf has been surrounded by Israeli forces for the last 3 days. The Israelis are preventing the residents from entering or leaving the village. This is taking place despite the fact that a part of the village is under the control of the UNIFIL Nepalese contingent.

Meanwhile, a delegation from Al-'Arqub village has visited the Soviet Embassy in Beirut, where it met with Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolutusha and briefed him on the terrorist practices which the occupation forces are carrying out against the inhabitants of southern Lebanon, particularly in Al-'Arqub. The delegation presented a memorandum to the Soviet ambassador in which it explained the enemy's Judization and expansionist designs on the Shab'a farms. The enemy is trying to settle the Falasha and is endeavoring to force the inhabitants to submit to a policy of normalization by creating Zionist-like civil administrations. The memorandum called for lifting the siege, releasing the detainees including Yahya 'Ali and 'Abdallah Hashim, and strengthening the UN forces' role in implementing UN Resolution 425.

Israeli Warplanes Fly Over Sidon, Camps

NC1209085788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the Palestinian camps this morning. Three Israeli warships were spotted cruising off the Sidon coast last night.

Lahd Patrols Hit by Roadside Bombs, Casualties

NC1009175588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] National Resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge on the 'Alman-Al-Shumariyah road while a Lahd militia patrol was passing. A vehicle was damaged in the blast, killing or wounding those inside it. In a separate incident, resistance fighters detonated another charge on the 'Aynata-Saff al-Hawa' crossroads as an agent patrol was passing.

The agents retaliated by shelling villages bordering the security strip, causing property damage.

Amal, PNSF on 'Limited' Action Against Israel

NC1209051888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] A meeting was held between Amal Movement officials and PNSF members in Tyre yesterday. Participants in the meeting agreed on the freedom of media activity for the Palestinians in Tyre as well as limited military action against Israel.

3 Shells Fired at Parliament Building 12 Sep
NC1209084588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] In a statement to our radio a short while ago, a security source denied that a sapper had dismantled a shell that was fired along with three other shells that were targeted at Mansur Palace in the Museum area this morning.

On learning of the attack on the Chamber of Deputies, Speaker Husayn al-Husayni held consultations with security officials, demanding that investigations be undertaken to identify the perpetrators of the attack. The military authorities have begun their initial inquiries to find out where the shells were fired from.

Meanwhile, Speaker al-Husayni is expected to hold a series of meetings today to discuss the measures that should be taken to provide protection for the deputies, ensure a safe atmosphere for the presidential election process, and arrange a venue that will be suitable, from the security and geographical points of view, for the presidential election.

VOL on U.S.-Syrian Exchanges, Chamber Session
NC1109181988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Our report this afternoon revolves around two important developments which are expected to surface early next week. One deals with impending Syrian-U.S. contacts, and the other involves the date of the Chamber's session to elect a president of the Republic.

The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the U.S. Administration has sent a message to Syria regarding a visit by a U.S. envoy to Damascus. Our radio also has learned that Damascus sent a reply message agreeing to receive a U.S. envoy. Damascus, however, made some remarks in this regard. It has not yet been learned if the envoy will be Richard Murphy.

If everything goes as planned with regard to U.S.-Syrian exchanges and envoys, our sources believe that a U.S.-Syrian exchange will take place within the next 2 days.

Meanwhile, our political correspondent has learned that Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni will soon call the Chamber into session to elect a president, regardless of other considerations.

PLO Official Cited on Kidnapped Indian Professor
NC1209055988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] UNITED NEWS, the Indian press agency, has quoted the PLO representative in New Delhi as saying that the Indian university professor held captive in Lebanon is fine and in good health. He is somewhere in Lebanon, the PLO official said.

Group Issues Statement on Release of FRG Hostage
NC1209050388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] In a statement distributed to local newspapers today, the Strugglers for Freedom Organization [Munazzamat al-Mujahidin Min Ajl al-Hurriyah] says that new developments concerning the release of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes will be announced in the next 48 hours. The statement was accompanied by a letter in German reportedly written by Cordes.

Al-Shar' Comments on Lebanon Situation

JN1009213088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Nicosia—In an exclusive statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the reconciliation candidate for the Lebanese presidential elections exists; namely, Sulayman Franjiyah. He said that the minority of the minority cannot remain in control, adhering to a regime that must be reformed if Lebanon is to remain united.

The minister noted that there are nationalist and Islamic Lebanese forces and a legitimate government headed by Salim al-Huss which will deal with the situation in Lebanon in case the presidential elections are not held.

Al-Shar' said: Any Lebanese national who believes that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is a foreign presence harms Lebanon in the first place and does not like to see a unified, sovereign, and independent Lebanon. Al-Shar' added: We believe that those who hampered the constitutional process to elect a new president bear the responsibility of dismembering Lebanon and placing it on a dangerous path. We believe that attempts to blackmail Syria because of its desire to keep Lebanon united should be stopped.

Al-Shar' said further: The minority, which wants to push the country toward partition, is placing itself in an impasse that is more dangerous than all the previous impasses. This is because we are convinced that the Lebanese people in all Lebanese areas strongly reject these trends and will sooner or later take the officials to task for leading Lebanon into the present situation.

Concerning the possibility of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile and Syria's position toward such a government, Al-Shar' said: This is primarily a Palestinian issue. He added: We in Syria care for the unity of the Palestinian resistance factions and for strengthening the Palestinian national unity. Therefore, we believe that any step or initiative that might lead to further divisions in the Palestinian arena or might harm Palestinian national unity will negatively reflect on the uprising. Therefore, we believe that such steps or initiatives are beset with many dangers.

On the process of filling the vacuum in the occupied Palestinian territory following Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, Al-Shar' said that filling the vacuum will be done by a unified, cohesive, and strong position, a position that does not offer any concessions to Israel, a position that calls for Arab solidarity to face the Israeli challenge and muster enough political and material weight there and in the world to apply pressure to Israel. Regrettably, the concept of others concerning Arab solidarity goes in the opposite direction. If the PLO leadership continues to approve of this concept of solidarity, we should not expect it to restore any of the Palestinian people's national rights.

On President Reagan's invitation to the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers, 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Shim'on Peres, for a meeting to be held in Washington in the last week of this month and if he expected that such a meeting will lead to activating the Middle East peace process, Al-Shar' said: We are not even interested in what will happen during this meeting. The issue will be discussed by one side. The Egyptian position is the U.S. position and the U.S. position is the Israeli position. Therefore, the whole process is like someone talking to himself.

Al-Shar' wondered: How do we expect one side to settle a problem in which two sides are involved? The media clamor which will accompany this meeting has other aims.

AL-BA'TH Gives 'Firm Facts' on Lebanon

JN0509073488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Sep 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Firm Facts in the Lebanese Arena," AL-BA'TH says: The serious and accelerating developments in Lebanon during the past 2 weeks, particularly after the conspiratorial trinity had obstructed the presidential elections session, have highlighted a number of facts. These facts have defined the Lebanese crisis and the role of the concerned parties throughout the years of its conflagration.

The first fact is the importance of the pan-Arab and national role which Syria has been playing to save Lebanon from its ordeal, to gather all Lebanese forces on firm principles stemming from the desire to place the sisterly state on the path of national reconciliation, and to save Lebanon from all plots and hostile plans to which it was exposed.

The second fact is the determination of the nationalist Lebanese forces to build an Arab, patriotic, and democratic Lebanon within the framework of reforms and reconciliation which will guarantee liberty, justice, and equality to all Lebanese citizens and to end forever the agentry of some parties and their association with forces that are hostile to Lebanon and the Arab nation.

The third fact is the continuation of the conspiratorial trinity—supported by America, Israel, and some reactionary Arab quarters—in the partition scheme aimed at liquidating Lebanon—homeland, territory, and people—and its becoming a second base, after Israel, from which to launch further aggressions against the Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH adds: The events during the past 2 weeks have exposed all the participants and their roles in the Lebanese arena. The events have also affirmed that the forces of national salvation and accord are determined to assume their pan-Arab responsibilities and to safeguard Lebanon and its existence. These forces rely on a large-scale popular Lebanese rally rejecting the plot and its tools and look forward to achieve their security, stability, and their positive role in the region and the world.

Al-Shar' Returns From Nonaligned Meeting

JN1109151288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the accompanying delegation returned to Damascus this afternoon after leading the Syrian delegation to the meeting of the nonaligned foreign ministers. This meeting concluded its work in Nicosia at dawn today by approving its final document.

Al-Shar' was seen off at Larnaca airport by Cypriot Foreign Minister Yeoryios Lakovou, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Cyprus, and the embassy staff.

YAR Prime Minister Delivers Statement, Departs

JN0609152588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Excerpts] YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and the accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning after a 4-day visit to the country in response to an invitation from Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the two deputy prime ministers for economic and services affairs, ministers, the YAR ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff. [passage omitted]

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, the YAR prime minister expressed his pleasure over his visit to Syria and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. The YAR prime minister conveyed the greetings of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President Hafiz al-Asad. President Hafiz al-Asad conveyed similar greetings. 'Abd al-Ghani described his visit to this country as very successful and beneficial, resulting in the formation of a joint higher committee chaired by the two prime ministers of the fraternal countries. They also signed agreements on technological and economic cooperation and in fields that strengthen and promote the existing fraternal relations between the fraternal countries to serve the pan-Arab interests of the nation.

In his statement, 'Abd al-Ghani praised Syria's great achievements and the stage of development and progress it has reached in the agricultural and industrial fields and in the establishment of economic institutions of which every Arab citizen is proud.

He concluded his statement by saying that his discussions with the prime minister dealt with bilateral relations and new changes in the Arab and international arenas. [passage omitted]

Birri, Junblatt Meet With Vice President Khaddam

NC1009171688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] The Lebanese nationalist forces continue to marshal their efforts for the sake of unifying the ranks to confront the conspiratorial designs and the isolationists' esclating campaigns launched by East Beirut's trio—the regime, the Lebanese Forces, and the Army, which is backed by the United States, Israel, and Arab reaction. This campaign is being demonstrated by threats to form a new government to entrench the partition of Lebanon and to obstruct the presidential elections.

In this connection contacts and meetings were held in Damascus and Beirut today. In Damascus, a meeting was held at the office of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, attended by PSP leader Walid Junblatt, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, 'Umar Karami, Robert Franjiyah, and Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces leader].

At the conclusion of the meeting, Birri said that the discussions were fruitful. He added: Our position is solid and is based on strong foundations. Birri reiterated his position that there will be no elections before reconciliation.

Afghanistan

Defense Ministry Denies Plane Downed in Pakistan

LD0909163088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense regards as false and baseless the claims put out by the Western media about the downing of an Afghan military aircraft, alleged to have intruded into Pakistan's airspace at 0900 on 28 August.

Special Commission To Assess Violations Proposed

LD0909195188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Statement by the Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[Text] Unfortunately, repeated, hasty, and hysterical claims by Pakistani authorities about alleged violations of Pakistani airspace by Afghan military aircraft have been heard since the beginning of September. It has often been claimed that some of these aircraft were shot down. If this were true, then why do they not let those concerned see the wreckage of the downed aircraft and the aftermath of the attacks? These claims, which are in fact groundless and false, are pursuing evil propaganda goals. The suprising thing is that all the claims have been made in conjunction with a strong propaganda campaign.

The recent claims and propaganda campaign came precisely at a time when, in light of the recent developments, the opposition political parties and vast majority of the toiling people of Pakistan are making an effort to expand democracy, to hold democratic elections, establish a nonmilitary government, require the government bound to improve relations with its neighbors, and honestly observe the Geneva accords.

Meanwhile, the current Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers' conference in Nicosia is the first high-level gathering of the Nonaligned Movement to be held since the signing of the Geneva accords. A decided majority of the movement's members support the Geneva accords as the only proper and effective course toward a political solution to the Afghan situation. They support the accords being observed without question by all parties that signed and guaranteed them. No side should violate the accords, and assistance should be given to Afghan people toward the return of the emigres, the establishment of peace, and the return to a peaceful life.

These countries want a constructive discussion to take place during the current nonaligned session on the Geneva accords implementation process. Certainly, tolerating the constructive tendency inside Pakistan and the working climate at the nonaligned conference is beyond the capacity of those Pakistanis who have always taken advantage of the so-called Afghanistan issue to resolve their internal problems, attract foreign assistance, and gain unearned prestige with warmongering circles. It is no accident that these claims are being made at a calculated, sensitive time. How is one to interpret the groundless assertions by Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan at the Islamabad airport, precisely when he was flying to Nicosia? Now, while the people of Afghanistan—who have learned from bitter and long experience of the undeclared war—can easily find out the truth written between the lines about measures and [words indistinct] propaganda.

In the future, in order to limit room for bringing up such groundless claims and deceitful propaganda, the Republic of Afghanistan proposes that a special commission be formed of representatives of Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the United States, under the UN Good Office Mission auspices, to assess their claims and those violations that really take place. We are certain that no one could conceal the truth from the world's public.

BAKHTAR Commentary on Pakistani Allegations

LD0709230188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] The Pakistani authorities have intensified their shameless interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and have embarked on groundless allegations such as claiming violations of the Geneva accords by Afghanistan and the violations of Pakistani territory by Afghan aircraft to justify their irresponsible actions. BAKHTAR's political commentator writes:

Why did Sahabzada Yaqub Khan find it necessary to embark on such groundless allegations against Afghanistan just prior to his departure for Nicosia, where the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers meeting is due to take place? The answer to this question is clear. More than 3 months have elapsed since the Geneva accords came into force and the implementation of these accords has reached a sensitive point.

During the past 3 and ½ months, the people of Afghanistan and the world have seen with their own eyes and they have drawn their own conclusions as to which forces have truly made every effort to implement the Geneva accords, which have taken steps to maintain peace and calm in our country and establish stability in the region, and which forces have tried and are still trying to obstruct the Geneva accords and continue the war in Afghanistan for their sinister interests.

All the undeniable facts and evidence, as confirmed by the news media, that support the Pakistani regime say that since the Geneva accords came into force, the Pakistani side has not only not ceased interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, nor improved relations between the two countries, nor eased tension in the region, but it has intensified its interference and has widened the scope of its interference. So far some 76 notes concerning 430 open violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords have been handed to the UN Good

Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. International mass media have filed reports that throw light on the violation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. In recent months the Pakistani authorities, using Pakistani military transport, have transported huge amounts of weapons and ammunition to Afghanistan and have distributed them to the opposition extremist bands. Foreign military advisers and foreign journalists are illegally entering Afghanistan through Pakistani territory. Reports say that recently two battalions of Pakistani militia took part directly in subversive and saboteur activities in Konarha Province. Western sources recently reported that the United States used Pakistani territory to send modern weapons, including missiles, to the extremist Afghan groups with the help of the Pakistani Government. It is these weapons which have been savagely used against nonmilitary targets in the cities that cause the death of a many of our compatriots including women, children, and the elderly.

In addition, contrary to Pakistan's pledges in the Geneva accords, the training camps of Afghan extremists still exist, and obstacles are being created by the Pakistani authorities for those refugees who want to return voluntarily to their homes. It is in such circumstances that the Pakistani regime irresponsibly wants to confuse international public opinion concerning the violation of its international pledges and wants to conceal its hostile actions against Afghanistan, thus resorting to such fabricated and slanderous propaganda against Afghanistan.

However, everyone knows that the Afghan Government truly and sincerely implements all its pledges in line with the articles of the Geneva accords which contain the firm legal and political basis for normalizing the situation around Afghanistan. All know that on 15 May, in line with the Geneva accords, the withdrawal of the Soviet limited military contingents began. This fact has become a good example for the solution of regional disputes which have been welcomed by the Afghan people and the peace-loving people of the region and broad political and social circles of the world.

In line with Document No 4 of the Geneva accords, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have sincerely met their pledges and 50 percent of the Soviet limited military contingents had been withdrawn by 15 August. Afghanistan has made the necessary efforts concerning the voluntary return of the Afghan refugees and creating mutual confidence toward the transformation of peace zones in the region, as well as the normalization of relations of goodneighborliness with Pakistan.

These are objective realities in connection with the recent groundless allegations advanced by the Pakistani foreign minister regarding the violation of the Geneva accords. Such allegations cannot deceive the participants of the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference and cannot justify the unprincipled position by the Pakistani side concerning the Geneva accords.

Pakistani Charge Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD1109185888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today, 11 September 1988. The following points were conveyed to him by the deputy head of the First Political Section:

The Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad was summoned to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry 9 September, where he was told that the Afghan artillery forces on 7 September between 0905 and 1030 [1405 and 1530 GMT] fired 30 rounds on Chaman and the surrounding areas, causing loss of life.

The Pakistani authorities also claimed that on that same day at 0924 and 0929 four Afghan aircraft entered 28 km into Pakistani airspace and dropped bombs on the villages of (Patmagar), (Khazani), (Khimay), and (Badagi) in (Halmir) region, injuring three Pakistani citizens.

Following a thorough investigation by the concerned authorities of our Security Forces, it has been proved that the Pakistan authorities' claims are far from the truth. The Afghan Foreign Ministry wants to draw the Pakistani authorities'' attention to these baseless claims.

The Republic of Afghanistan is fully committed to the Geneva accords and will never violate them; therefore, it rejects these accusations. The Afghan government calls on the Pakistani authorities to consider their commitments to the Geneva accords and not to hamper their implementation with such baseless accusations, which will only aggravate the situation. Otherwise, Pakistan will be responsible for any consquences.

Wakil Meets Separately With Ministers in Cyprus

LD0909220288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, who went to Nicosia to take part in the Non-Aligned Movement's foreign ministers' conference, met separately yesterday with the foreign ministers of Argentina, Malta, Uganda, Cyprus, Cuba, and the YAR, the general secretary of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

At these meetings the foreign minister shared information about recent developments in the country, circumstances of the implementation of the Geneva accords, and the violation of the accords by Pakistan. He also exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

Both sides in each meeting also discussed and expressed views on the draft of the documents of the foreign ministers' session of the nonaligned countries in Nicosia.

Space Flight Delegation Returns From USSR

LD0909215688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The high-ranking Afghan delegation, led by Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of communications and chairman of the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight commission, which went to the Soviet Union to take part in the ceremony for the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight, returned to Kabul this morning. [passage omitted]

'Extremists' Take 'Heavy Losses' in Paghman

LD0909173188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1330 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] In continuation of the crushing blows by the armed forces against those extremist groups that have concentrated in Paghman District, another group of these subversive elements were crushed yesterday. BIA's military section reports that the warmongering extremists, using heavy weapons fire on the residential areas of Paghman District, have tried recently to disrupt the peace and security in this district and to plunder the people's wealth.

The report adds that armed forces units stationed in Paghman District have, with the help of the local people, inflicted crushing retaliatory blows. During the recent operation carried out in this district, the plundering extremists took heavy losses and have left the battlefield. For example, as a result of yesterday's blows by the armed forces, 50 extremists equipped with light and heavy weapons, given to them by Afghanistan's enemies, were killed and 15 other extremists were wounded.

The report adds that during this operation dozens of weapons, including two rocket-launchers and one artillery piece, were destroyed and several of their hideouts were smashed.

Another report from Konduz Province says that a group of 20 persons who were hiding in Konduz Province were crushed yesterday by the armed forces. As a result of this action carried out with the cooperation and participation of Konduz citizens, the plundering extremists were killed. Four heavy weapons and several light machineguns were destroyed and their hideouts were eliminated.

Mujahidin Capture Brigade Headquarters in Paktia

BK1009171488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have captured Khayr Kot brigade headquarter of (Katbas) District in Paktia following a joint attack yesterday. According to the Afghan News Agency, the brigade was under the mujahidin's pressure for 1 month. It was the second significant victory for the mujahidin this week, after the capture of the headquarter of Spin Buldak military brigade. In the Khayr Kot brigade a huge quantity of arms and ammunition were seized, and a helicopter gunship was destroyed on the ground by the mujahidin.

The mujahidin also shot down an aircraft near Qandahar city and a helicopter in Khayrkhana Kotale area in Kabul Province. Kabul airport is still reported to be closed since the mujahidin's attack last week.

Offensive Reported in Farah, Laghman, Parvan

BK1009090588 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have captured a number of security posts of Kabul regime, in Balaboluk area of Farah Province. They also conducted several operations on the provincial headquarters of Laghman and Parwan Provinces, inflicting heavy losses in men and material on the Kabul (?side). According to one report, the mujahidin also attacked the military column on the Salang highway near Baghlan and killed or injured eight Kabul soldiers.

Bangladesh

Ershad Wants Neighbors To Meet on Flood Control

BK1109163988 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] President Ershad has proposed a meeting of experts of China, India, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh to find out the causes of recurring floods in the country. He said once they could determine the causes of the floods and make recommendations for the removal of these causes, then efforts could be made to implement the recommendations so that Bangladesh was no longer affected by floods.

The president was addressing spontaneous public gatherings during visits to the flood-hit areas of Nowgaon and Nator districts today. He went to (Uprai), Singra, and Gurdaspur upazilas [subdistricts] to see the flood situation and relief operations. The president said the people of this country had never seen so much of waters, and the waters had naturally come from the northern areas—the Himalayas and the countries at the foothills of the Himalayas. The sources of big rivers that pass through Bangladesh are in the Himalayas, China, Nepal, Bhutan, and India. Because of heavy downpours in these areas, the waters have been coming down and flooding Bangladesh.

He said the recommendations that would be made by the experts for solution of the flood problem would be difficult for Bangladesh to implement with its limited resources. He appealed to the world community as well as the United Nations to come forward with assistance to help Bangladesh tide over this problem. President Ershad expressed his firm belief that the international community and the world body would extend their help toward a permanent solution of the problem so that the 11 crore people of Bangladesh did not suffer from floods every year. In this context, he referred to the helping hands extended by the world community and the United Nations to provide succor to the suffering humanity in Bangladesh.

Describing the current floods as the worst in the history of this part of the world, the president said he himself and his government had firmly stood by the side of the people at their hour of need and hence there was not report of any death so far due to starvation. Our Rajshahi representative says President Ershad announced a grant of 10 lakh taka for the reconstruction of roads of Gurdaspur upazila and 2 lakh taka for the affected people of Nator District.

India

President Leaves for West, East European Visits
BK1209081888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, left New Delhi this morning for the Netherlands on the first leg of his 4-nation visit. He was seen off at the airport by the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; his ministerial colleagues and others. The president will later go to Finland, Cyprus, and Czechoslovakia. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation. His visit is aimed at further strengthening of economic relations with these nations.

Envoy to Vietnam Killed in Plane Crash
BK0909160988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] At least 75 people, including the Indian ambassador to Vietnam, Mr Arun Putwardan, and 10 other Indians were killed, when a Vietnamese airliner crashed and exploded 6 km from Bangkok Airport today. [passage omitted] Arun Putwardan took over as ambassador to Vietnam only 2 months ago. Mr Putwardan's wife and son were also killed in the crash. [passage omitted]

Terrorists Kill 5 in Punjab 10 Sep
BK1109163288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down five persons last night. While three persons, including a woman, were shot dead in Amritsar District, one each was gunned down in Gurdaspur and Ludhiana Districts.

Tripura 'Extremists' Begin To Turn in Arms
BK1009134188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] In Tripura, 425 TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists have come overground and deposited their arms at a special function at Govindbari today, heralding a new era of peace in the state. They will be taken to a peace camp at Ganganagar, about 100 kilometers from Agartala, where they will be housed. The state government has made elaborate arrangements to rehabilitate all those who have come overground. The Assam Rifles is opening a camp for recruiting a few TNV members. The TNV extremists are rejoining the civilian life following an agreement signed at New Delhi between the center and the state government and the TNV leader on the 12th of last month.

Iran

UN-Sponsored Cease-Fire Talks Continue in Geneva

Velayati's Statement
LD0909141088 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 9 Sep 88

["Velayati's Statement on Geneva Peace Talks"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 9, IRNA—The following is the full text of Iran's foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's opening statement delivered at a news conference at the U.N. headquarters here yesterday.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the end of our discussions with the secretary general in New York which led to the announcement of ceasefire by the secretary general, it was proposed that the discussion of other provisions of the resolution be carried out within the context of direct talks which began here on the 25th August, under the auspices of the secretary general.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the resolution and the implementation plan of the secretary general, was of the view that the implementation of all paragraphs of the resolution with the exception of Paragraph Four which calls for comprehensive settlement of all outstanding issues did not require direct talks.

However, motivated by a genuine desire for peace and in order to assist the secretary general to fulfill his crucial task, we accepted the proposal of the secretary general in his letter of 8 August 1988 to engage in direct talks in Geneva to finalize the dates and procedure for the implementation of all remaining provisions of the resolution.

In this framework, our delegation and the secretary general both expected that the initial phase of determining the dates and procedure for the implementation of the remainder of the resolution starting with withdrawal and ending with regional mechanisms contained in the Paragraph 8 of the resolution could be completed within a very few days, allowing Iran and Iraq to employ the mechanism of direct talks under the auspices of the secretary general to settle all outstanding issues within the framework of Paragraph Four of the resolution and for the purpose of achieving a comprehensive, just and honorable peace.

Regrettably, Iraq in the first meeting in Aug. 25 raised extraneous elements making their fulfillment a precondition for the implementation of the remaining provisions of the resolution.

The introduction of extraneous elements, which Iraq claimed to relate directly to the observance of ceasefire, was not only an attempt to derail the discussions from the agenda which was proposed by the secretary general, but also ran against the procedure for direct talks originally proposed by the Government of Iraq itself. In his statement of 6 August 1988, the president of Iraq declared that:

"We... declare our readiness, on the condition that Iran declares clearly, unequivocally and officially, its agreement to enter into direct negotiations with us, in appreciation of this initiative, immediately after the ceasefire, in order that we may discuss, reach agreement and implement all the provisions of Security Council Resolution 598 (1987) other than those relating to the ceasefire, beginning with withdrawal to international boundaries, proceeding through to paragraph 8 and including all operative paragraphs."

It is evident that even the president of Iraq did not consider the question of ceasefire to be one of the subjects of direct talks, and that the direct talks should have started immediately with finalization of the dates and procedure for completion of withdrawal and implementation of other paragraphs of the resolution. It is necessary to emphasize here that Resolution 598 demands, under Articles 39 and 40 of the United Nations Charter that withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries take place without delay.

Iraqi preconditions to move from the stage of ceasefire to the implementation of other provisions of the resolution in addition to being outside the agenda for discussions, did not have any legal or logical base.

First, Iraq did not feel content with freedom of navigation in accordance with international law, trying to use the talks to acquire unimpeded passage through the territorial sea of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to deprive Iran of exercising its most basic and universally recognized rights under international law.

It introduces the fallacy of "equal enjoyment from the benefits of ceasefire" and geographical comparisons between Iran and Iraq and the necessity to satisfy the claimed requirements of Iraq with regard to navigation in the Persian Gulf and through the Strait of Hormuz.

This argument would invite similar comparisons in military, political, economic and social fields between the two countries and the claimed requirements emanating from each, opening a Pandora box of never ending inequalities, which according to this logic should be remedied within the framework of ceasefire.

While the Islamic Republic of Iran considers that the issue of navigation in the Persian Gulf is dealt with appropriately within the framework of the understandings reached at the military level between the United Nations military team and military officials of Iran and Iraq, it continued to assist the secretary general to remove this artificial obstacle created by Iraq.

It considered positively the suggestions made by the secretary general and his personal representative. However, in the course of discussions, it became clear to us that the Iraqi delegation was trying to employ this process and exploit the good intentions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to achieve its illegitimate objectives and gain in the peace talks what it could not gain in the war of aggression it imposed upon the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In fact Iraq tried to reverse the direction of the proposals of the secretary general and his personal representative change the scope and limits of relevant rules of international law and get a license for Iraq to follow its expansionist desires and to use the ceasefire in order to undermine its very foundation. The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to comply with the relevant rules of international law with regard to freedom of navigation for neutral vessels and at the same time comply with the relevant rules of international law with regard to other vessels.

As its second precondition, Iraq insisted on the proposition that it was necessary to enter into the discussion on the question of clearing Arvand River as an element of the ceasefire.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the rest of the international community shared the view that this element is totally irrelevant to the issue of ceasefire and should be taken up at an appropriate state. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which stands to gain equally from the normal use of the waterway, is fully prepared to engage, at the earliest feasible opportunity, into the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab in accordance with the provisions laid down in the agreement between Iran and Iraq concerning the rules governing navigation in Shatt al-'Arab, dated 26 December 1875. This agreement deals clearly and exhaustively with the issues of clearing of the waterway.

The last few weeks have been a test of the readiness of the two parties to comply with the terms of the Resolution 598. Our delegation which came to Geneva for direct talks for the implementation of the resolution is eager to continue these talks at any level deemed appropriate by the secretary-general or his personal representative within the framework established by the secretary general in his letter of 8 August 1988. We are confident that this will lead to the full and rapid implementation of the Resolution 598 and to the establishment of a just, comprehensive and honorable peace.

In this context, I wish once again to express my government's gratitude to the secretary general, his personal representative, his excellency, Ambassador Eliasson, and their colleagues for their tireless and sincere efforts in this direction. We are confident that under their strong supervision, we will be able to achieve this objective, that is peace. Thank you.

Velayati on Change of Venue

LD0909143688 Tehran IRNA in English 1204 GMT 9 Sep 88

["Velayati: What the U.N. and (P) GCC Can Do To Help Peace Talks Along"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran said Thursday he did not expect a breakdown in the peace talks with Iraq but confirmed that they will be moving from Geneva to New York "after a short time."

Speaking to the London-based newsletter MIDEAST MIRROR, in an interview here, Velayati said he hoped "this breakdown will not take place" and was of the idea that the U.N. secretary general "will keep the process alive."

He said the momentum of the Iran-Iraq talks could be revitalized if both the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council and U.N. Security Council members convinced Iraq "through Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar" to confine the peace talks "to the agenda—namely the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and no more."

He hinted that preliminary talks between his deputy 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, and Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah indicated that a (P)GCC envoy may visit Tehran next week.

Velayati said Iran had "no problem to move very fast on the implementation of Resolution 598.

On Iran's diplomatic opening to the world, Velayati said the only hurdle to the Islamic Republic ending its diplomatic break with Riyadh was "the problem of the hajj" to Mecca, where hundreds of Iranian pilgrims were killed by Saudi security in July last year.

Velayati did not dismiss speculation in the Egyptian press that Iran may release thousands of Egyptian prisoners captured during its eight-year war with Iraq.

He said Tehran's efforts to upgrade diplomatic links with Britain will continue, irrespective of the timetable for the expected release of British hostages believed held by pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon.

Velayati told MIDEAST MIRROR he could not give a timetable for the hostages' release because "they are not in our hands."

He said his country would also be willing to help win the freedom of Americans abducted in Lebanon on humanitarian grounds.

But he put a condition for government-to-government tallks with Washington to resume diplomatic ties.

He said the atmosphere for such U.S.-Iranian fence-mending can be created if the U.S. unblocked some $10 billion in frozen Iranian assets.

Velayati scoffed at pessimistic projections by Israeli strategists expecting the Iraq-Iran war to resume in a few years, regardless of the outcome of the current peace talks.

"There is no room for such pessimistic projections by Israeli strategists expecting the Iraq-Iran war to resume in a few years, regardless of the outcome of the current peace talks.

"There is no room for such pessimism," he said. "We do hope that in future, the two nations (Iran and Iraq) can live together and have a very friendly, if not brotherly, ties."

'Face-to-Face' Meeting Planned

LD1009141588 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 10, IRNA—Foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq will sit for a face-to-face meeting at 6 p.M. today after which it is speculated a recess in the Geneva talks will be announced by the U.N. secretary general's personal representative Jan Eliasson.

U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut told reporters after keeping them waiting for more than two hours that after the plenary session between the two ministers, Eliasson will meet the press.

In her midday briefing today, Gastaut said "intensive work" had been going on here in Geneva and in New York. She said she would make an announcement "early in the afternoon" today to give an idea what the work schedule would be for today.

The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq have not met face to face since Aug. 27, that is two days after official negotiations started here.

Against the provisions of the Security Council Resolution 598, the Iraqi side suddenly raised some preconditions causing the talks to be stalled on the second day with almost no progress so far.

Iraq says the Arvand River must be dredged before the continuation of the peace talks, something that Iran strongly rejects. As the Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reiterated at his news conference Thursday, *the Iraqi preconditions are "irrelevant."*

With speculations that the Geneva talks will be shifted to New York in two or three weeks, it was reported today that Iraq has opposed an adjournment in the Geneva talks and shifting them to New York.

Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs Sa'dun Hammadi was quoted in an interview that his country did not see any "justification" in moving the peace talks to New York because he said the two sides had agreed on the place of the negotiations "in accordance with certain considerations that still exist." He did not disclose what these "considerations" were.

The Iranian foreign minister has declared Iran's full preparedness to continue the peace talks, "direct or indirect" anywhere the U.N. secretary general deemed appropriate.

Velayati, 'Aziz Begin Talks

LD1009164188 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 10, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq sat for a second and apparently last round of face to face talks here at the Palais des Nations at about 6 p.m. today.

The personal representative of the U.N. secretary general Jan Eliasson entered the conference together with six of his aides at 18:03 hours. Two minutes later Iranian and Iraqi delegations headed by their foreign ministers entered the hall.

Some 12 foreign journalists and cameramen were allowed to enter the conference hall for a few minutes to take films and pictures.

Today's negotiations began on the same triangular shape tables this time under the supervision of Jan Eliasson.

In the first round of the talks which only lasted two days, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar himself supervised the talks which were stalled because of some preconditions raised by the Iraqi side.

Iraq insists on clearing of the Arvand River and access to free navigation in the Persian Gulf before the peace talks could continue. Iran rejects these conditions and says the Security Council Resolution 598 which is the basis of the peace talks, has not made any provisions on such "irrelvant and untimely" matters.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran sat on the first row with eight of his aides. On the second row sat three more members of the Iranian delegation.

The Iraqi delegation was manned by 14 members.

Contrary to Velayati who was smiling to the reporters as he entered the hall, his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz seemed to be very displeased.

Two representatives from the Iranian and Iraqi news agencies were also present among the group of 12 reporters.

Due to the little progress in the peace talks here, it is very likely they will be adjourned and shifted to New York where the secretary general if to open the annual General Assembly meeting on Sept. 22. But reports indicate that Iraq is not interested in a change of venue despite almost no progress in the negotiations over the past two weeks.

Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi told a UAE newspaper today that his country was opposed to an adjournment in the Geneva talks and their moving to New York.

If this is to be Iraq's official position, tonight's plenary session is expected to be a difficult one because the Iraqi delegation will undoubtedly raise new obstacles on an agreement over the venue and timing of the next meeting.

Iran's foreign minister has explicitly declared that he will sit for direct or indirect negotiations anywhere the U.N. chief or his personal representative deem suitable.

Observers here maintain that Iraq's decision to oppose suspension of the Geneva talks and having New York as the next meeting place, stems from the fact that in New York the Iraqi delegation will be under more pressure than it is in Geneva.

One reason, they say, is because of the present anti-Iraq sentiments in the United States over its increasing use of internationally-banned chemical weapons against its Kurdish population as a means of suppression.

Secondly, these observers point out, Iraq will have to stop its procrastinations under the pressure of the Security Council members and the secretary general himself.

It is believed that Javier Perez de Cuellar has received the backing of the Security Council to adjourn the Geneva talks and have the next meeting in New York.

At any rate, it is unlikely for Iraq to oppose a decision in this respect by Perez de Cuellar who has the full backing of the Security Council so that hopefully the talks in New York will enjoy a speedy pace for the cause of regional peace and stability.

Direct Talks Adjourn

LD1009201988 Tehran IRNA in English 2004 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 10, IRNA—U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut told reporters waiting for about four hours to see the end of a face to face meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, that the talks had been suspended at 9 p.m. "for a coffee break." She said they will resume "shortly." Gastaut told this at 9.50 hours. The two ministers sat for direct talks at 6 p.m.

The prolongation of the talks tonight is believed to be over Iraq's refusal to agree to a change of venue to New York.

With speculations over the past few days on the rise that the peace talks will most likely move to New York to continue under direct supervision of the U.N. secretary general, it was reported today that Iraq is opposed against this shifting.

Iraqi minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi said in an interview today that his country did not want the talks be moved to New York (?nor) to see their adjournment here in Geneva.

Observers here pointed out that the reason Iraq is refusing to go to New York is because of the pressure it would face from the public opinion in the United States over its unlawful use of banned chemical weapons particularly against its own Kurdish population.

Washington is reportedly considering some sanctions against Baghdad for its massacre of its Kurdish population after the Aug. 20 ceasefire with Iraq.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz issued a statement here today expressing his "astonishment and indignation" at the decision adopted by the U.S. Congress on the issue of sanctions.

After the plenary session between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq ends tonight, the personal representative of the U.N. secretary general Jan Eliasson will address reporters on the outcome of the lengthy talks.

Talks Resume After 'Long' Break

LD1009214388 Tehran IRNA in English 2141 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 10, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq resumed their face-to-face talks at 23:23 hours after a break of about two and a half hours.

The meeting today started at 18:00 hours but after three hours of talks through the U.N. mediator Jan Eliasson, they took a "coffee break" which seemed to be quite long.

After the plenary meeting is over, Eliasson will meet the press.

This is the second round of direct talks between 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Tariq 'Aziz since Aug. 26 when face to face talks were halted over Iraq's raising of preconditions that Iran describes as "irrelevant and untimely."

Iraq says Arvand River must be cleared before the negotiations could continue. It also wants free access to navigation in the Persian Gulf.

Iran says the issues could be considered but not at this stage of the talks.

Talks End Without Agreement

LD1009221888 Tehran IRNA in English 2214 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 10, IRNA—U.N. mediator Jan Eliasson did not hold the news conference he had promised for today apparently because the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq had not reached an agreement in their plenary meeting tonight.

After a break of about 2 ½ hours, the two foreign ministers resumed talks which lasted less than 15 minutes and then they left the U.N. building.

Few minutes later Eliasson came to see reporters evidently having nothing to say. "As you have probably noticed the two foreign ministers have refrained at this stage from going into detailed comments. I have told them that I would tell you the following: The third plenary session was convened this evening. Consultations are proceeding," Eliasson told reporters.

His remarks indicated that the two sides had not reached agreement over the issues discussed in today's meeting which was expected to end with an announcement of a recess in the talks here and their shifting to New York. Iraq is opposed to a change in the venue of the talks from Geneva to New York.

Iran says it is ready for talks, direct or indirect anywhere under the good offices of the U.N. chief or his personal representatives.

The program for tomorrow was not immediately known but U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said she would hold her daily briefing at 6 p.m. tomorrow.

Venue Change Proposed

NC1009064288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Report by unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Because of Iraq's insistence on including marginal issues in the talks in Geneva on implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598, and because of its efforts to block the course of the current talks, news sources in London say that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar may invite the two participating sides to continue their present round of talks at the UN Headquarters in New York for direct supervision on the (?course of) talks and to accelerate the pace.

It is expected that the UN secretary general may also ask the UN Security Council, and the permanent members in particular, to offer stronger support for his efforts in implementing the resolution.

According to knowledgeable sources it appears that the UN secretary general's decision stems from Iraq's obstructionism in Geneva, which is hindering all progress in the implementation of Resolution No 598. On the other hand, Iran's willingness to cooperate with the UN secretary general, especially regarding the implementation of the resolution within the framework of the secretary general's plan and his letter of 8 August addressed to Iran and Iraq, as well as the Iranian delegation's continued contacts with the UN secretary general's representative Jan Eliasson and with the secretary general even during his absence from Geneva, indicates Iran's sincerity in assisting the progress of the UN'S task.

The Iranian delegation has been in constant touch with most of the envoys of the Security Council's members. Delegations have also been sent to other countries to explain the Islamic Republic of Iran's legitimate position, contributing to their clarification. Iran's foreign minister emphasized in his recent press conference in Geneva that Iran is willing to cooperate with the UN secretary general and that Iraq is trying to place more obstacles in the path of the talks.

IRNA on Velayati-'Aziz Meeting

LD1109220888 Tehran IRNA in English 2206 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 11, IRNA—U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut told reporters at about 11.30 p.m. today that there will be no meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq tonight. Earlier in the day, she said such a meeting was possible.

The U.N. mediator Jan Eliasson was reportedly in contact with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to be told what to do regarding Iraq's new obstacle in the peace talks.

Baghdad has opposed a decision by the secretary general to move the talks to New York despite the lack of progress here in the negotiations.

Mahallati Briefs Khamene'i on Talks

LD1109171088 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here today and reported on the latest developments in the Geneva peace talks. He also informed the president on the activities of the Iranian delegation in Geneva as well as efforts by the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

President Khamane'i said in response that the U.N. chief's efforts on the basis of the Resolution 598 and the 1975 accord are the only logical basis for the Geneva talks.

Iraqi 6-7 Sep Violations Reported to UN Mission

LD1109180188 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—An informed military source today outlined the major ceasefire violations committed by Iraqi forces on September 6 and 7 as follows:

1- Iraqi forces blared provocative statements at Iran's Muslim combatants through loud speakers in Musian region, Western Iran, at 18:45 hours local time (15:15 GMT) on Sept. 6.

2- At 19:00 hours (15:15 GMT) last Wednesday, Sept. 7, Iraqi forces blasted a border demarcation post in Baneh, northwestern Iran, with explosives in a blatant violation of the 1975 agreement.

3- During September 6-7, Iraqi forces in defiance of ceasefire regulations carried out reinforcement and engineering operations, set up barricades including barbed wire fences and mine-fields and dug canals in Panjwin, Baneh, Piranshahr, Marivan, Helaleh, Shur Shirin, Kani Sheykh, Sumar, Chazabeh, Hajj 'Umran, Qa'adizeh, Harshur [placename as received], and the old Khorramshahr-Basra road.

4- Over the above-mentioned period, Iraqi forces carried out engineering and reinforcement operations, in addition to mounting anti-aircraft guns in Boloft-e Kuchak [placename as received] and Dopazah regions.

The military source pointed out that Iraqi ceasefire violations have been reported to the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Responsibility

LD0909173888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Friday prayers Sermon by Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, on 9 September at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] God's servants, be pious; make piety the cornerstone of your life; create piety, intellectual piety, piety in practice, and political piety. Be pious and make this piety a means of moving closer to the creator. May God direct you on to the right path by means of piety and for the sake of piety. [passage omitted]

Today the subject of my discussion in the first sermon is responsibility. Responsibility is one of those words in constant use by everyone. It has no complex meaning but is clear and obvious. [passage omitted] In popular culture and everyday usage responsibility generally means commitment, duty, obligation, and so forth. The word is used in these contexts. In religious usage the word has these same meanings but is more specific and has clearer limitations. [passage omitted] The concept of responsibility plays a vast and important role in Islam and is divided into two parts. The first is a sense of responsibility; the second is recognition of what responsibility is. There are people who know what their responsibility is but who choose to do nothing about it. This is what it means to be irresponsible. A person's responsibility begins when he is born and ends only when he dies. [passage omitted]

Today the subject of our discussion after this very brief introduction is about our responsibility or responsibilities as an ummah, an Islamic and revolutionary ummah, in a particular phase of the revolution. The tide of events has left us with certain tasks to be done. We are currently going through a particular phase and situation. From the viewpoint of history and that of the phases of the revolution—if we were to divide up these phases—we would now be living in a state of neither war nor peace. In the state of the cease-fire we have accepted the resolution, the Security Council Resolution zno 598, and we have sent a delegation to negotiate. We are now in an in-between state: Peace has not yet been established, but we do not at present have war on the fronts in the sense (?of exchange of fire), except in cases of violations which noted, or some that may not have been noted. This is where we stand, and we have certain responsibilities in this respect.

I will describe one or two instances of these responsibilities today. One of these is the responsibility of [words indistinct] the responsibility of preparations and preparedness in defense. This is a duty which we must bear. The enemy is obstructing the negotiations; he is preventing the talks from progressing; he is coming up with pretexts and seems not to be bound by any values. [passage omitted]

If we want to prove our point and if we do not want them to think that Iran's acceptance of the resolution was done from a position of weakness, then they should definitely know that our position is not weak. The report which the Air Force commander presented to us yesterday and which you will also see, God willing, at the end of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] was very satisfactory and good. In short, we have a responsibility, to a greater or lesser extent, a responsibility in the current situation, a responsibility for those who can bear arms, who can go to the fronts, who can fill the fronts, who can strengthen the forces.

The second responsibility is being discussed at length in newspapers, in political and nonpolitical commentaries, in various bodies, and that is national reconstruction. This involves many issues. Of course, reconstruction falls under the government and cabinet's responsibility, and I will tell you what (?their) responsibilities are. However, just as the martyr-nurturing ummah and dear people of Iran, both men and women, brothers and sisters, have been present on the scene in all the past phases, and as this presence has not only been the basis of these tasks, then they should undoubtedly also take an active part in the task of reconstruction.

I deem it necessary to provide you with a brief explanation here. The questions facing us in reconstruction are: first, the question of the reconstructon of the ruins caused by the war. eight years of relentless war on the fronts or in the cities, in the air, at sea, and on land has caused great destruction. We are compelled to, that is, any country which found itself in our situation would be compelled to repair and reconstruct the damages of war. this is one part of reconstruction.

The second question is that of eliminating economic bottlenecks and shortages and of finding a solution to inflation. These were caused by various factors which we know about and were brought about by necessity. Mental and material forces should be mobilized so that these bottlenecks can be eliminated and this crippling inflation halted.

The third question we face is that of industrial reconstruction. The industries that we had and which were left to us from the start (?and another lot which emerged in the era of the war were the assembly industries), but this is incompatible with our country's situation because of our slogan which is one of the fundamental principles of the revolution: neither East nor West. It is independence and freedom. Independence, economic independence, has no meaning when we have assembly industries and industries that are a 100 percent dependent. [words indistinct] (?We should make efforts) toward economic independence because if a country does not achieve economic independence, it will have difficulty in achieving political independence. This is one aspect of reconstruction.

Another aspect is the elimination of agricultural shortages. We have many imports; we are dependent; we experience damage in this way. Reconstruction should be such that even if we do not export and if there is no need, we should at least achieve self-sufficiency.

Another issue is the Armed Forces. We have Armed Forces: the IRGC, the Army, and popular forces. For the first time in the history of our country these forces have sprung from the heart of the revolution. This imposed war, despite all its impositions, its losses and damages, has taught us some very useful and valuable lessons, such as testing the level of the efficiency of these forces; to what extent they are useful; what are their difficulties; who are their leaders; what are their strong and weak points. This is one of the very important issues that should be considered in this reconstruction process.

Then there is foreign trade. Foreign trade is not a simple matter. It can be carefully calculated. It should be very accurately and scientifically calculated so that we can discern the best route for the country to take. [passage omitted]

What are we? Neither East nor West. We are an Islamic republic; that is, we have a third kind of system. To resolve these problems we can accept neither the Western solution, because it would be contrary to our whole system, as our system is not Western and our solution would be Western; nor can we accept the Eastern solution, because our system is not Eastern and our solution would be Eastern. So what do we do? The main outline and the framework of the system must be determined. Within that framework a solution should be found in keeping with the overall system. Who should determine this? This is where the leadership comes in. The responsibility belongs to the leadership. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Geneva Talks

LD0909183388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1307 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Friday prayers sermon by Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, on 9 September at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] One of the issues I must raise in the second sermon, although not a new subject, is the acceptance of Resolution No 598; and the departure of the high-ranking delegation to negotiate in good faith, a situation which even the world has now accepted. Iran wants a lasting regional peace. (?No one doubts that now). However, following those obstructionists and that discordant behavior of the Iraqi delegation, I will say a few words. With our acceptance of Resolution No 598 we support a lasting regional peace. Iran's foreign minister has stressed that with the maintenance of [word indistinct] they are prepared to negotiate, no matter how long the talks last.

At the same time we do not hide the fact that we are dissatisfied with the slowness of the negotiating process and witb the lack of suitable progress. We are not pleased. We consider it to be a method of killing time and of obstructing the path of regional and world peace. We consider the raising of the issue of dredging the Arvand River at this juncture of the cease-fire to be an illegitimate and illegal demand. We consider the seeking of advantage in the Strait of Hormuz and of passage, free passage, without any kind of inspection, to be against the legal rights of Iran. We deem it a kind of extortion and, unfortunately, with middlemen playing for others.

We believe that Iraq will not benefit from this other than by delaying peace and playing the middleman for others. We deem interference with the 1975 agreement and its nonacceptance with respect to the Arvand River to be a case of bullying and irresponsible behavior, something illogical, bearing in mind all its inaccuracies. If the assertions of those gentlemen are going to be accepted, all borders, accords, and border agreements since World War II up to now must fall apart. Such claims!

In conclusion, we condemn the driving out of 350,000 children, women, old men, ill people, the Kurds of northern Iraq, after all those extensive killings with chemical bombings. We consider it an unparalleled crime; of course, unparalleled in other places, because Saddam himself has done other similar things. We deem it an unparalleled crime, and we express our sympathy with the victims of that tragedy. [crowd chants in support]

We express condolences to the people of the world for that great misfortune which has occured as a result of the terrifying and indescribable crime of the Iraqi regime before the eyes of the world and for the innocent martyrdom of the victims.

We demand the withdrawal, without any evasion or excuses, of the foreign armed forces from the Persian Gulf; forces that descended on the region one day with the excuse of maintaining security, peace, and calm. Today, even that excuse does not exist and everyone recognizes that action is in contravention of peace and security. [crowd chants in support]

Those seekers of world peace, who for years did not accept our rightful assertions with the excuse that our assertions are against peace. [sentence as heard] It is now clear who is against peace. Those statements! Those cries! Those shouts! We invite their claimants to cooperate. You, who are the guardians of world peace and who once rejected our rightful assertions with that excuse, come and break that seal of silence. Speak once again of peace.

We stress once again the idea of the Afghan people governing Afghanistan themselves, the Afghan mujahidin, without any kind of imposition, without any kind of precondition; and the withdrawal of foreign forces from that country.

We express our approval once again for the rightful battle of the Palestinian people who, under fire, embracing death, defend their legitimate rights with tooth and claw, and we send curses upon that bloodthirsty, bullying, aggressive Israael. [crowd chants in support]

We declare to all neighboring countries that the Islamic Republic regime desires good-neighborly relations and cooperation on the basis of reciprocal respect and also on the basis of the accepted international commitments within the framework of our own constitution.

At the same time we declare that we are not prepared to listen to any kind of intimidating words. We declare that we will not tolerate any kind of impositions. The Iranians have proved that they are brave people, they are strong heroes. If they are subjected to intimidation, extortion, or attacks they will weather the storms like lofty mountians. They come down on the enemy like a ton of bricks. [crowd shouts approval] They will not calm down until they teach their enemy the required lesson.

There are two other issues I would like to discuss briefly. I think some people expect me to talk about these topics. Of course, I will explain only one aspect of the topics. One is the resignation of our dear brother, His Excellency Musavi, and the publication of his resignation in the press. You heard about it; we too were surprised. We thank the president for rejecting the resignation. We also thank his holiness the imam who at sensitive times always puts forward his steps under any condition. We ask God to safeguard his existence from all kinds of catastrophes.

I raised the topic because all that has been said in the foreign and domestic press is wrong, even though everything else in the world may be right. It is wrong when they say sharp differences have surfaced within the Iranian leadership, that one group is radical and the other liberal, and that the liberals have won against the radicals, and so forth. First of all, brothers and sisters, you must know that one thing which does not exist in Iran, which had never existed, and which will never exist is this very issue.

Now, if the point relates to differences of opinion, then everyone has differences of opinion. You can see all these individuals now assembled in here. You cannot find two individuals with the same face, with the same color, with the same tone of voice, or even with the same shape in their fingers. God has created human beings in different shapes. In the same way that our appearances differ so do our minds. In the same way that minds differ so do our thoughts. That is how God has willed it, and that is how God created us. Differences of thoughts is very natural.

However, God has blessed us in Iran with the adorable existence of the imam, the leader. We know—yet I will remind you of it again—that in Iran, in the regime, on any issue sometimes we have a consensus or sometimes we fail to reach a consensus. In cases where we do not reach a consensus we sometimes encounter two, three, or even four different opinions. No one dares or allows himself to act on such an opinion without presenting it first to the imam. The issue is presented to the imam. And his holiness the imam clarifies the line. It makes no difference if he chooses one of the different lines or even choses another line. The line the imam chooses is the right one. W hen we sit down to debate sometimes we agree and sometimes we disagree. Even on important issues when full consensus is reached, that is when all agree on one opinion, it will not be implemented before it is presented to the imam. In the final analysis, issues are presented to the imam through his honorable son either in writing or orally. The imam's reply is awaited. What the imam says is final. Therefore, such contentions as that of one faction eliminating another faction and the like are baseless and irrelevant.

Yes, differences of opinion do exist on all issues. The arbiter is the imam. Even when there is a consensus it will not be deemed sufficient unless the imam confirms it. This is a blessing that God has granted the Iranian ummah through his holiness the imam.

There is also the question of state punishments [ta'zirat], about which we receive many telephone calls. Because the wartime conditions imposed an extraordinary situation, his holiness the imam decreed state punishment. Now he has not cancelled it. He has said that he had decreed it at that time because of exigencies and the extraordinary situation, but now he has referred it to the Consultative Council [Shora-ye Meshverat]. He has told them to sit down, to deliberate to see if it is needed, allow it to remain as before, and if it necessitates otherwise then decide on what the best step is. The Consultative Council in its past session raised the issue, but the matter required additional surveys and expertise, an additional assessment to identify weak points. In any case it was not deemed right to suspend the matter altogether. As reported by the media, the Consultative Council wrote that it is better to continue the matter as it is until the point is fully surveyed, and then the final word may be said.

Musavi Addresses Majlis on Cabinet Ministers

LD1109100088 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said today that any of his ministers accepted by the Majlis and the president would be equally approved by himself.

During today's session of the Majlis, Prime Minister Musavi was supposed to introduce his cabinet ministers and take vote of confidence for them.

Referring to the selection of officials and ministers in the Islamic Republic, he said if anyone considers himself better qualified than others for a ministerial post he should go for the post by legitimate means.

The prime minister reiterated that ministerial posts have special problems and involve responsibilities and no one should look for the posts without proper appreciation of its inherent responsibilities.

Referring to imam's recommendations last week that the government continue its services in the framework should be stressed upon firmly for the sake of the interests of the country and the system. The said disrespect to this framework would threat [as received] the social and political well-being of the country.

He said to the Majlis that in the wake of the coming to office of another president next year, then the Majlis will have to vote for a new cabinet and that if any of the present nominees for ministerial posts should not get a vote of confidence from the parliament now, it would mean that their offices will remain practically vacant until that time.

Premier Musavi said the Iranian nation is wholeheartedly involved in every national activity and specifically in the defensive war with the nation's enemies.

Musavi said as the Islamic government opted to accept the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 a large portion of the masses felt rather indignant because they suspected that the declaration implied a revision in the policy-dictum of the revolution, but that as the imam assured them of continued adherence to the same lofty ideals of the revolution, they agreed wholeheartedly.

He said the imam's decree does not imply a partial compromise with the foreign powers or a relenting of the revolution's position in dealing with counter-ideologies nor that it should be interpreted to sanction a giving up of established positions in coping with national or international issues, nor that his opting for the acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Revolution should be considered as marking an anticlimax to the revolution's ideology but rather another climax and a sort of keynote adress to the nation which re-emphasizes adherence to established ideological principles and rationalism in coping with developments.

Majlis Debates Appointments

LD1109171488 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—Majlis (the Islamic Consultative Assembly) today continued its debate over the vote of confidence to the Cabinet of Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

During today's session, four deputies spoke against and five others defended the performance of Premier Musavi's cabinet.

Debate of the proponents and opponents of the cabinet focused mainly on the Ministries of Interior, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Agriculture, Post, Telegraph and Telephone and Labor and Social Affairs.

Majlis deputies tomorrow will listen to remarks of the government's representative in defence of the cabinet ministers before casting their votes for or against the cabinet.

Vote of Confidence Set for 11 Sep

NC1109051988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Consultative Assembly has announced that the Majlis will convene in an open session at 0730 [0400 GMT] today and that a study of the vote of confidence in the ministers of the cabinet is among the topics on the agenda.

Soviet Envoy Delivers Message on Geneva Talks

LD1109174488 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador Vladimir V. Gudev met Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Sunday and submitted him a message from the USSR leadership dealing with the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 and the trend of the Geneva peace talks.

Besharati told Gudev that Iraq's delegation to the U.N.-mediated peace talks at Geneva is raising absurd preconditions which he said are in violation of the spirit of Security Council Resolution 598 and U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar's implementation plan.

The Baghdad regime is trying to obtain at Geneva what it has not been able to get during its nearly 8-year-old war against the Islamic Republic, Besharati said.

The acting foreign minister also called on international bodies to pressure the Iraqi Ba'thist regime to observe internationally-accepted rules in order to activate the Geneva talks. He also announced the Islamic Republic's readiness to expand its ties with the Soviet Union.

In response, Gudev said his country is willing to contribute to post-war reconstruction projects in Iran and that a Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations may visit Tehran to study this issue.

Omani State Minister Arrives 10 Sep

LD1009082288 Tehran IRNA in English 0641 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—Omanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah arrived here Saturday on a one-day visit and was welcomed at the airport by Iran's acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Speaking briefly to reporters upon arrival, 'Alawi said he is carrying a written message from Omanese head of state Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id for Iranian officials regarding regional issues and relations among the Persian Gulf states.

Meets With Majlis Speaker

LD1009185288 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs today backed U.N. Resolution 598 and the ongoing Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva. He also called for preservation of regional security.

Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah in a meeting here with Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol- Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council has reached the conclusion that close cooperation with Iran is vital for maintaining regional security.

In reply Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said regional security solely rests with the Persian Gulf countries, and if cooperation in this regard speeds up, foreign countries cannot justify their presence in the region anymore.

On de-mining of Persian Gulf waters, the Majlis speaker said Iran will sweep its shipping lanes, and reminded that the Islamic Republic has already announced its readiness to clear shores of other littoral states. All the regional waters should become clear of mines, he added.

Commenting on expansion of ties among regional countries, Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said mutual cooperation should develop in such a way that no more anxieties exist between the countries, in order that an acceptable security is achieved. Foreign ministers of littoral countries can exchange views to reach an appropriate solution in this regard, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added.

Agrees With Position on Strait

LD1009191488 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here today that Iran will not step back from its legitimate international rights in the Strait of Hormuz and the Arvand River (Shatt al-'Arab) because "we believe any concession in this regard is detrimental to our rights."

In his meeting with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Premier Musavi said Iran's stand concerning the Arvand River is crystal clear and based on international laws. Iran will strongly oppose any Iraqi move aimed at undermining the international regulations, he added.

In response, 'Alawi presenting a report to the Iranian premier on the results of the recent ministerial meeting of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, said Persian Gulf states would support a coordinated regional effort for clearing the waterway. He said his country's stand concerning the Strait of Hormuz was the same as Iran's. Half of the Strait of Hormuz lies in Iranian waters and the other half in Oman's, said 'Alawi adding that the two countries should maintain the security of the strait which in turn would secure their interests. Other littoral states have the right of passage through it based on international regulations, said 'Alawi.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1009191988 Tehran IRNA in English 1911 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah concluded his one-day visit and left here Saturday night.

Minutes before his departure Al-'Alawi told reporters that international regulations should continue to be observed in the Strait of Hormuz. International laws define use of the straits, he added. Al-'Alawi said the Strait of Hormuz lies between Iranian and Omanese [as received] coastal waters, therefore the two countries should play the major role in maintaining the Straits's security.

He said his visit to Iran was in connection with the regional developments. Al-'Alawi also carried a message from Sultan Qabus of Oman for Iranian officials.

The Omanese minister termed his visit as "fruitful" and said he was pleased with Iran's firm stances.

During his short stay here Al-'Alawi met and conferred with acting Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Pakistan

5 Injured in Peshawar Bomb Blast 11 Sep

BK1109063488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] A bomb blasted at Kissa Khwani Bazar in Peshawar this morning injured five persons. One of the injured has been admitted to the hospital while the others have been discharged after the first aid.

'Special Coordinator' for Crash Inquiry Named

BK1009170488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has appointed Mr F.K. Bindial, secretary of states and frontier agent division, as special coordinator for investigation into the crash of the C-130 plane at Bahawalpur on the 17th of last month in which President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and 29 others lost their lives. An official announcement in Islamabad says the function of the special coordinator will be to monitor and supervise all investigations and inquiries which are being conducted at present by federal and provincial agencies, including inquiries undertaken by the Ministry of Defense. He will ensure cooperation between different agencies for expeditious and effective pursuit of investigations and also keep the president informed of the state of progress by submitting written reports from time to time.

The president has also approved the establishment of a high-level investigation committee to improve liaison and ensure better coordination between the civilian police agencies investigating into the plane crash at Bahawalpur. The committee, to be headed by the director general of FIA [Federal Investigating Agency], will have the additional director general of FIA, the additional IG [inspector general] of Police of Punjab, and deputy director of the Intelligence Bureau as its members.

Resignation of Sind Governor Reported

BK0909143488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the acting governor of Sind Province, General Rahimuddin Khan, has resigned. He took over as governor of Sind in June. Reports say his resignation follows the appointment of Mr Akhtar Ali Kazi as chief minister by the acting president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. General Ziaul Haq had appointed Mr Rahimuddin Khan as acting governor with full powers There was no chief minister for Sind Province.

Sri Lanka

President Merges Northern, Eastern Provinces

BK1009133788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, has issued a proclamation merging the Northern and Eastern Provinces of the island. The proclamation meets one of the main demands of the Tamilians and prepares the ground for election to the joint provincial council. It was issued last night.

India has welcomed the Sri Lankan president's move. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the proclamation is a further step toward implementation of India-Sri Lanka Accord and fulfillment of Tamil aspirations.

TULF Welcomes Merger

BK1209035488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] has welcomed the merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The front secretary general, Mr Amirthalingam, has expressed the hope that there will be a cease-fire and unity among Tamil groups once election to the provincial councils is announced. About the TULF taking part in the provincial council elections, he said the front will await the announcement of Election Commission on nominations. A spokesman of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party described the merger as a first step toward division of the island.

Bomb Thrown at Bus; 17 Passengers Injured

BK1209100788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0927 GMT 12 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Seventeen commuters were reported seriously injured shortly before noon today when some terrorists hurled a bomb at a Sri Lanka Transport Board bus at Urugodawatte in Colombo north. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the bus was plying from Pettah [words indistinct] approaching a level crossing at Urugodawatte, on the old Avissawella Road, a powerful bomb thrown at it exploded, seriously injuring 17 passengers. The injured were rushed to the General Hospital, Colombo.

Meanwhile, police said terrorists also burnt a transport board bus at Seeduwa this morning.

Last night, six armed terrorists set fire to a train at Heendeniya Pattiyagoda in the Gampaha police area after having chased away the rail guard and his assistant.

A report from Migalawa in the Kurunegala District states subversives damaged three electricity pylons.